

Promoting health among gay/bi Latinos  
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# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 24 • 12 June 2003

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## Pride at DOJ OK

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. Department of Justice, after days of scathing criticism, on Tuesday, June 10 backed off a ban prohibiting the DOJ Pride employee group from holding its annual Pride event at the department.

DOJ Pride, however, will not enjoy the sponsorship of the Justice Department as it has in the past, according to a statement from the Human Rights Campaign.

The Associated Press reported that the change means the employees will have to pay for the event themselves.

The Pride event will now go on as scheduled, on June 18. In spite of the reversal, HRC noted that the new policy is "still a step backward" in that DOJ Pride is being treated differently than it was in the past.

"We are pleased that the DOJ has reversed its decision of the all-out ban on the on-site gay Pride event," said Winnie Stachelberg, HRC political director. "However the new policy is still a step backward." She added that the DOJ Pride group is being treated "unequally from other agency groups who have the full sponsorship of the department."

DOJ spokesman Mark Corallo said that the only change in the policy was that the DOJ Pride event would no longer be officially sponsored by the agency, according to AP.

"They will not be officially recognized this year, just like every other group," Corallo told AP. "They took that to mean they couldn't have the event."

Before Tuesday's reversal, however, gay and lesbian employees at the

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Jane Philomen Cleland

## A fun San Jose Pride

Members of a queer youth contingent were among some 50 groups that participated in the 28th annual Silicon Valley Gay Pride Parade, held in downtown San Jose Sunday, June 8. This year's theme was "Power of Pride." Several thousand people attended the two-day event, which included a community day, the parade, and a festival featuring live music, food, and shopping.

## Gay agencies concerned about PipeVine scandal

by Cynthia Laird

Many LGBT and HIV/AIDS nonprofit organizations receive money through United Way of the Bay Area's workplace giving programs, and the news last week that one of its vendors, PipeVine Inc., has ceased operations has led leaders of several of those agencies to express concern about whether they will receive money that was earmarked for their agencies.

PipeVine Inc. was a separate 501 (c)(3) nonprofit that provided pledge processing, funds distribution, and other services to corporations, Web sites, and nonprofits, including United Way of the Bay Area. Last week, as first reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, PipeVine shut its doors and ceased operations, claiming it was insolvent. Later reports indicated that PipeVine may have spent some of the money slated for donations to United Way agencies to pay staff salaries and other expenses.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer has launched an investigation, and United Way of the Bay Area is also assessing the situation. UWBA Chief Executive Officer Anne Wilson stated that the agency will honor UWBA contributions by drawing from its reserve fund, which Wilson said is "between \$4 million and \$5 million."

It is not yet known how much money may be owed to Bay Area nonprofits. PipeVine handled more than \$100 million a year before it ran out of cash, the *Chronicle* reported, however, it had other clients besides UWBA.

In a brief telephone interview Monday, June 9, Wilson told the *Bay Area Reporter* that UWBA pledges to "make

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## Mayor's AIDS office dormant

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the battle over AIDS funding heated up at City Hall this week, one person has been notably absent from the debate — Mike Shriver, Mayor Willie Brown's AIDS czar.

Shriver, who heads the Mayor's Office on AIDS and HIV Policy, has been out on disability for over a year and a half. Battling both HIV and hepatitis C, Shriver went on leave in September 2001, less than a year after being appointed to the position.

Since then the Mayor's Office on AIDS has been dormant and AIDS agencies have been without a key voice within Brown's administration. The duties of the office have been redistributed to the health department's AIDS Office.

"It hasn't been an easy task to fill his shoes. It is a hole, it is a huge hole. I don't know if we can completely fill it," said Jimmy Loyce, the deputy director of health for AIDS programs, who joined the health department's AIDS Office around the same time Shriver first went on leave. "We hope for his return to the position stronger and with greater health than when he left the position."

However, the contract with the University of California at San Francisco for the \$50,000-a-year position ends on June 30,

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Mike Shriver

Rick Gerhardt

## Off and riding

Heavy fog did not deter these cyclists as they left following Opening Ceremonies at the University of San Francisco early Sunday, June 8 and began the 585-mile trek to Los Angeles as part of AIDS Life/Cycle 2, benefiting the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center. Reached by phone Tuesday, June 10 near the small town of Bradley (population 200), SFAF's Redge Norton said that the 997 riders and 305 volunteer roadies on the trip were in good spirits. "The whole town came out to cheer us," Norton said of local reaction to the cyclists. Funds raised this year total \$4.1 million, Norton said, up from last year's inaugural event, during which 674 riders raised \$3.2 million. The 2003 riders are expected to reach Los Angeles Saturday, June 14, for Opening Ceremonies.

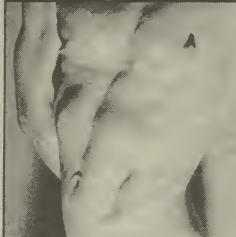


Jane Philomen Cleland

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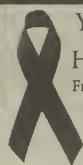
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# Safety first at SF Pride

by Zak Szymanski

**S**uffering from burnout, but still looking for a way to give to your favorite organization? The San Francisco LGBT Pride Committee invites interested volunteers to serve as safety monitors in exchange for the "best seat in the house" during the June 29 parade. Hours of service logged can be donated to any nonprofit in Pride's partnership program; organizations receive a portion of Pride beverage sales profits based upon the volunteer hours they provide to the event.

Perks abound for safety monitors, including prime viewing; free T-shirts; free lunch and drinks; private rest areas; the license to cruise, make friends, and collect phone numbers; and a volunteer appreciation picnic in July.

Safety monitors are simply required to give four hours of service to the event, which includes interacting with the crowd during the Pride Parade and celebration, and making sure everyone in attendance leaves safe and happy. Responsibilities include acting as an extra set of eyes and ears; helping to move large objects or vehicles through crowds; assisting medical and accessibility teams where appropriate; being proactive rather than reactive; and remaining clean and sober while on duty. Monitors do not work alone, but rather, as part of a team during the event.

Pride's safety crew was started many years ago after a fatal accident during the Pride Parade in which an individual jumped off a moving float and was run over. At that time the San Francisco Police Department stipulated that unless Pride supplied 250 safety volun-

teers in the future, the event could not go on. The last few years, however, "have been less well staffed than I or the rest of the safety crew would have liked," according to Dave Nee, co-chair of Pride's safety subcommittee. "We've had enough people to deal with the situation but it really wears on people to work in smaller teams."

Nee attributes the safety monitor drop-off to the general decline in volunteerism after the AIDS epidemic took its toll.

"Certainly when I started about 15 years ago, the teams were a lot larger. There has been a drop off in volunteerism, post-AIDS. A lot of us put in a lot of energy to that effort, and people got tired."

But Nee encourages potential volunteers to dedicate a small amount of time to make a big difference.

"It's a fun day. It's the best way to see the parade; you're right up there on the front lines. It's a good feeling to help people, and people thank you all day long," said Nee. "It's not difficult, it's just a matter of watching people and making sure that things go along smoothly."

Volunteers need to complete a two-hour training session that

will review nonviolent crowd management techniques and common sense skills.

Scheduled safety monitor trainings include Sunday, June 15, at 1 p.m. at the Community Resources Center, on the second floor of the Fire Truck House at Stanford University; Tuesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. at the White Horse in Oakland; Saturday, June 21, at 2 p.m. at Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco at 150 Eureka Street; Sunday, June 22 at 2 p.m. at San Francisco's Women's Building, 3542 18th Street; Monday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at Other Change of Hobbit, 2020 Shattuck Avenue, in Berkeley; Wednesday, June 25, at 7 p.m. at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary; and Friday, June 27, at 7 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street. All sites are wheelchair accessible.

For more information, call "Safety Dave" at (510) 848-0413 after 3 p.m., or e-mail [dave@otherchangeofhobbit.com](mailto:dave@otherchangeofhobbit.com), or [safetyjoan@hotmail.com](mailto:safetyjoan@hotmail.com). ▼

For more information, visit [www.sfpd.org](http://www.sfpd.org)

## SF plans action on day of sodomy case decision

by Cynthia Laird

**A** San Francisco protest or celebration is being planned for when the U.S. Supreme Court issues its decision in the *Lawrence v. Texas* sodomy case;

the ruling could come at any time, but it is believed it will be released on a Monday this month.

Tommi Avicelli Mecca and Will Doherty held an informal organization meeting Monday, June 9 with local activists to plan a

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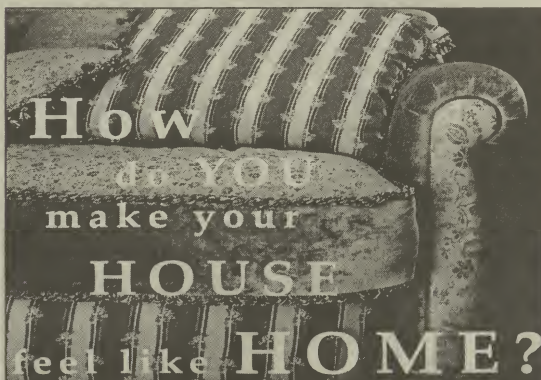
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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# City to sanction Halloween

by Joe Dignan

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors has agreed to take responsibility for the mayhem that has become the Castro Halloween celebration.

The board on Tuesday, June 10 voted unanimously for a resolution authored by District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty to make the celebration an official city event and try to curb the violence and public drunkenness that has marred the previously unpermitted street party in recent years.

Last year's party drew approximately 300,000 people toward the intersection of Market and Castro on Halloween night. Some of them never made it. There were five stabbings, 91 reported incidents of violence, and 28 arrests. It took 250 police in riot gear to finally quell the surging mob. Police say most of the violence was a result of public drunkenness, fueled in part by illegal sidewalk liquor sales by merchants in the area.

While bars and restaurants in the area will be allowed to operate normally, Mission Station commander Captain Greg Corrales has vowed a "zero tolerance" policy for drinking on the street. Deputy Chief Greg Suhr said that, "The lion's share of the problems are around alcohol."

Patrick Batt, Merchants of Upper Market and Castro board member and former president, said he's glad the city will administer the event.

"I think it's high time the city takes official responsibility for an event which has dogged the Castro for many years," he said. "Hopefully the merchants' association, working in concert with the police and Supervisor Dufty, can encourage the merchants with off-sale licenses not to sell alcohol for consumption on the streets."

Gustavo Serina, president of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, also offered support. "The organization completely supports the resolution," Serina said.

Although the resolution is nonbinding and does not require the mayor's signature, Mayor Willie Brown's spokesman, P.J. Johnston, said that Brown supports Dufty's plan and the alcohol ban.

Dufty said he wants to provide entertainment at the event to give the crowd something to do besides drink, including DJs, a stage for a costume parade, and at least one other performance venue featuring entertainment. Funding would come in part by a standing \$20,000 grant from the city's Grants for the Arts fund.

Dufty's resolution calls for a perimeter around the event to check for potential weapons, within which the ban on alcohol would be strictly enforced. Dufty thinks the perimeter could also provide an opportunity to ask for donations, as is the practice at most gay-oriented San Francisco street fairs.

Dufty said that he hopes to create a working group of city agencies that will run the event. ▼

## Sodomy case

◀ previous page

peaceful, nonviolent action. The meeting comes on the heels of a Bay Area Reporter editorial last week that called on the community to organize some sort of action. Avicoli Mecca called the B.A.R. last week to state that he and Doherty were in the process of planning an event.

If the high court upholds the homophobic Texas law that pro-

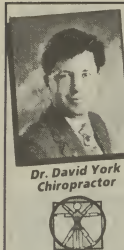
hibits consensual sex between gays and lesbians, there will be a protest. If the court overturns the law, the event will be celebratory in nature.

"We will either condemn the court or celebrate a victory, hopefully the latter," Avicoli Mecca stated in an e-mail.

Community members are asked to arrive at Harvey Milk Plaza, at Castro and Market streets, at 5 p.m. on the day the decision is announced. There will be speakers from various community

organizations and possibly a march through the Castro, depending on the size of the crowd and the mood, Avicoli Mecca added.

Demonstrations are being planned in several cities, including Los Angeles/West Hollywood; New York; Atlanta; Charleston, South Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; Chicago; and Washington, D.C. Activist Robin Tyler and the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network helped spearhead the organization of the events. ▼

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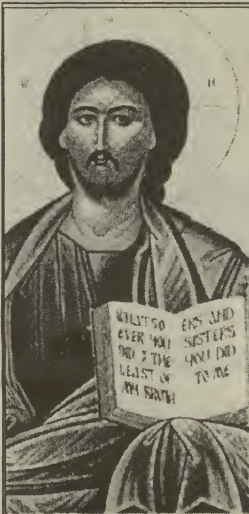
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# Community rallies to support AIDS agency

by Matthew S. Bajko

A 10-year-old girl donated her \$2-a-week allowance.

A group of women switched their "Girls Night Out" plans to help.

The sister of a man taken care of while he died from AIDS lent her support.

Along with hundreds of other concerned community members, the outpouring of support from these women during last month's Dining Out for Life event helped keep the doors open at the Center for AIDS Services in Oakland.

Faced with the prospect of losing a key employee due to budget constraints, the agency turned to the public to help it raise at least \$30,000 so it could afford to keep its case manager on staff.

As of Monday, June 9, the Oakland AIDS agency had counted more than \$26,000 raised, with more donations yet to be tabulated from its May 29 fundraiser, where restaurants from throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties agreed to donate 25 percent of their food sales from that day.

"We are still waiting on a couple of restaurants. The last total I saw was \$26,000 and I think it is higher than that," said

Simona Fino, the center's volunteer coordinator and event coordinator. "Our goal was \$30,000 and I think we will reach it."

The agency also received \$3,000 in in-kind services donated by Oakland-based Giving Something Back Business Products. The office supply company gives more than half its profits to community groups each year, handing out more than \$488,000 to Bay Area groups last year.

When the company learned about the center's problems, it helped pay for publicity for the event.

"It is the only organization of its kind in the East Bay that is truly life-supporting and life-sustaining. It was an easy decision to make," spokeswoman Lori Hope said of the company's opting to get involved with the center. The company "is absolutely thrilled that the position has been saved."

The Dining Out event is the center's first successful fundraiser in over two years and a much needed boost not only to the agency's coffers, but morale. The center learned this year it was losing \$23,000 in funding from the public health department in Alameda County. The agency has a total budget of \$750,000 and cares for more than 400 clients.

The revenue cut came on top of a 95 percent drop in donations coupled with an increased demand for services, according to agency Executive Director Peggy Bush. The drop in revenues meant the agency could not afford to pay for the salary of Ann Speyer, its case manager.

Without Speyer, the agency would have had to close its doors. As a last ditch effort, it turned to hosting its first Dining Out event.

"We raised around \$13,000 just in donations from the public," said Fino. "People were very happy to help and eager to help and excited to be a part of it."

Fino said the agency is still writing grants and "going about our normal business in procuring funds" in order to find a more permanent funding source to pay for the case manager job.

And since the Dining Out event was so successful, she said the agency will bring it back next year. Several restaurateurs have already expressed interest and want to expand their participation to other sites they operate. A couple restaurants that did not participate this year have already called to ask about becoming involved.

"This was very successful for us and I can only see it becoming more successful in the future," said Fino. ▼

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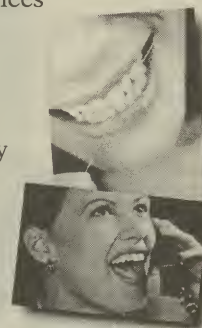


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# Bartenders buy Twin Peaks

by Matthew S. Bajko

The rainbow-colored arrows are aglow once again at the venerable Twin Peaks, one of the Castro's oldest gay bars.

Just days after signing the papers to buy the watering hole from its longtime owners, the new tavern keepers broke out a ladder and replaced the light bulbs and flipped the switch last week on the flashing lights, dormant since the state's energy crisis.

It is the most visible sign yet of the renewed energy and spirit being poured into the neighborhood gathering place cherished by gay people the world over.

Longtime bartenders Jeff Green and George Roehm, along with their significant others, bought the bar at the corner of Market, Castro and 17th streets on June 1 from the lesbian partners who have operated the bar since its inception in the early 1970s. While they intend to make cosmetic changes to the bar's interior, the four men promise the bar's atmosphere will remain the same.

"They were ready to retire and pass the torch on," said Roehm, a Twin Peaks bartender for the last 14 years, of the original owners Mary Ellen Cunha and Charlotte Coleman.

Roehm, with boyfriend Fred Hoesking, and Green, with boyfriend Day Galles, beat out three competing offers for the bar.

"Somebody wanted to change the whole bar and make it more of a cruise bar. They were going to

put high tables in with high chairs," said Roehm. "It would have completely changed the whole bar."

"The girls were nice enough to go with us," said Green, who has tended bar at the Twin Peaks for 13 years. "It was either buy the bar or go stand in the unemployment line."

The names on the lease aren't the only difference of late at the Twin Peaks. The bar's clientele is also undergoing a change. Often referred to as the "Glass Coffin" due to its reputation as a hangout for older men, the bar is seeing a shift to a younger demographic.

"It is just happening naturally. They are coming in later at night to get a drink before they go clubbing," said Green of the younger men now calling Twin Peaks home. "We want to add to it."

Along with turning on the rainbow arrows, the men plan to replace the neon martini glass which used to adorn the sign above the bar's entrance.

About five years ago, "A drag queen with a huge headress on Pink Saturday knocked it off the sign," recalled Green.

The men also plan to re-upholster the bar's seating, repaint the interior facade from its current marbled green to a terra cotta with gold finish, and place planted urns at the entrance.

"I want to give it a Tuscan, warm European look to it; dress it up a bit," said Galles, who owns a salon, 211 Studio, downtown. "The faux green marbling is gone."

The art nouveau bar, saved

from an old hotel that survived the 1906 earthquake will remain, but the new partners are upgrading the bar's wine and beer selection. Other than that, things will stay the same at a place where the staff knows their clientele not just by drink, but name.

"It is definitely a gay Cheers," said Green.

The bar will still sport a balcony seating area, a jukebox, and one of the best perches to cruise men walking down the street. Twin Peaks was the city's first gay bar to remove its black windows and install clear glass so all who entered could be seen.

"People were not as out then, they really took a chance," said Green.

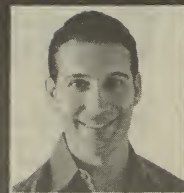
Two years later, in 1974, the bar marked another milestone in local gay history. The Twin Peaks-sponsored gay softball team beat the San Francisco Police Department's team. For the 2004 season, the bar hopes to revive its softball sponsorship.

While the bar has seen business drop due to a decline in tourists and local patrons will less money to spend, the new partners are optimistic they will be able to make the transition from employees to owners a success, so that another generation of gay men can call Twin Peaks home.

"We want people to know what a jewel it is," said Green.

"We want people to still be able to sit and look out the window," added his partner, Galles.

Located at 401 Castro, Twin Peaks Tavern is open seven days a week from noon to 2 a.m. ▼



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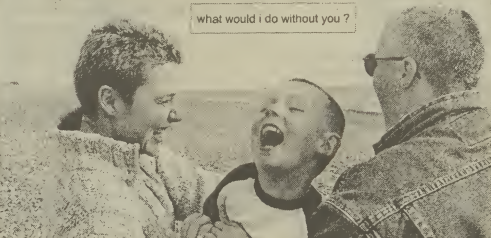
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## OPEN FORUM

## Canadian victory; bias at home

Two gay men in Toronto tied the knot – legally – on Tuesday, just hours after an appeals court ruled that Canada's ban on gay marriage was unconstitutional. Michael Leshner and Michael Stark were married in a small civil ceremony, after which they received something that same-sex couples in this country only dream about – a marriage license.

This latest victory for gay equality once again occurred outside the United States, and on the same day that Attorney General John Ashcroft's Department of Justice reversed course and announced that DOJ Pride, a group of LGBT Justice Department employees, can hold its annual Pride event at the department after all. Last week, it was reported that the department had banned the Pride event. Tuesday's flip-flop was one of those exercises in political parsing that Republicans once assailed President Clinton for when he engaged in it – a superficial use of words so that both sides could claim victory.

Despite Ashcroft's promise – made during his contentious 2001 confirmation hearings – that he "would not tolerate discrimination against any employee at the Department of Justice based on sexual orientation," that's exactly what the department did when word came down that DOJ Pride could not hold its event on site. And not surprisingly, President Bush, who has refused to issue a gay Pride proclamation every year he's been in office, supported the department's decision. Here's a president who has issued more than 250 proclamations – according to the *New York Times* – for events like Greek Independence Day, Leif Erikson Day, Save Your Vision Week, and National Hospice Month, but when it comes to gays, Pride cannot be publicly proclaimed. Bush spokesman Scott McClellan babbled about how the president believes sexual orientation should not be "politicized"; it was a line straight out of position papers by folks on the antigay right. Last year's DOJ Pride event was attended by

the department's number two official, Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson. Apparently, the Christian conservatives went ballistic, hence, Ashcroft's awkward attempt this year to quash the party, despite his previous "commitment" to equality for all employees. We're glad the department reversed itself, but the fact remains that LGBT employee groups within the federal government have to fight for virtually everything, even an innocuous event like a Pride awards ceremony.

The Christian right is at the root of much of the homophobia in this country, and Republicans, for the most part, play right along, unwilling to stand up for equal rights and unable to tell these

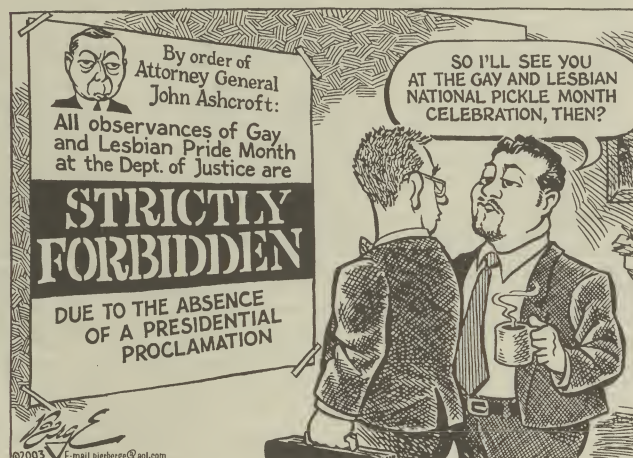
people that there are far more important issues with which they should be concerned.

Several other countries are far ahead of the U.S. in the fight for equality, the Canadian court decision being just the latest example. Gays and lesbians can marry in the Netherlands, and gays can serve openly in the military in Great Britain and 23 other countries, including Canada, according to the University of California, Santa Barbara's Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military.

Tuesday's court decision puts increasing pressure on Prime Minister Jean Chretien's government to challenge the court's ruling or let the decision stand. We hope the ruling stands. ▼



Editorial



## Pride in progress

by Matt Lum

The first time I met a gay person, I was 18 years old. Michael Pedraza was out and everyone around him knew it. I asked, "You're a guy who likes other guys and people know? You tell them?"

Lifting his cigarette to his mouth, he crossed his legs, took a deep drag, and exhaled, "Yes, girl!"

The students gathered around the outdoor courtyard of my college dormitory looked at me, surprised I didn't know such an existence was possible – but I hadn't until that moment. That was eight years ago.

Growing up in the small town of Freeport on Texas' Gulf Coast, I remained completely isolated from positive images of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. There were no out lesbians or gays at my high school, there was no gay-straight alliance. Our commitments were not in the newspaper next to the neighbors' engagements.

Blanketed like much of America by the guilt-guilt of religion gone awry, my hometown preferred to stay silent about "homosexuals" – except, of course, in the hateful context of schoolyard slurs and amid sanctimonious Sunday church sermons.

Therefore, it seemed impossible for a "fag" (whom, we're told, as a walking abomination undoubtedly would "burn in hell") to live an honest, successful, fulfilling life. I was held captive by a complex system of exclusion and shame. I was forced to hide from myself and lie to others. But not anymore.

That's one of the reasons I will share my Pride this month – with anyone who will listen. And while we've made tremendous strides in visibility in the last eight years, we're not yet done.

Just recently, Texas Governor Rick Perry signed what the antigay industry is calling the "Defense of Marriage Act." The legislation, while tacitly acknowledging committed gay and lesbian partnerships exist, explicitly brands our love unworthy in the eyes

of the law and prohibits its recognition by the state. Perry symbolically celebrated its passage in a private signing ceremony, as Texas became the 37th state to denigrate our lives and our love.

We must continue to celebrate Pride – with vivid colors and costumes, thriving with diversity and resolve – until lawmakers no longer celebrate repugnant legislation that keeps gays and lesbians marginalized, dissolves and prohibits our families, criminalizes our most intimate moments, and encourages an existence of shame.

We celebrate gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Pride this month because we know our love to be as pure and giving as anyone's, despite Texas' dehumanizing decrees. We are proud because our children are the smartest and cutest on the block – and ahead of the crowd because they've been raised to recognize and respect life's diversity rather than shun and hate those unlike themselves.

We must be proud so as not to be made inferior by statesmen and statutes to the point of invisibility and worthlessness. We must be proud, else closet doors remain locked while our brothers and sisters suffer in silence.

When I finally gathered the courage to come out to my grandfather, one of his first questions was, "I am not gonna turn on my TV and see you prancing around in short, cut-off blue jeans in the middle of the street am I?"

Having spent dozens of years in the same media bubble as myself, his perception of the LGBT community had been skewed and shaped by TV's tendency to show the most provocatively clad and spirited individuals from our Pride celebrations, juxtaposed with antigay spokespersons spewing often unchallenged scare tactics and dogmatic ridicule.

We proudly celebrate this month – some of us wearing precariously placed leather, some of us in shorts and a tee, some of us

in wigs and others pushing strollers – because we know far too many people are simply unable to be themselves. We celebrate because we must.

As we recognize Pride this month, many will take offense. Our opponents will attempt to seize the pages and airwaves to vilify our community. They will say our Pride is nothing more than a senseless public display of sexuality.

And it's our responsibility to tell the truth: our Pride is about love and respect – loving and respecting oneself, one's partner, and one's family. Our Pride is about overcoming the odds of oppression in order to enable others to do the same.

One cannot move out from the shadows of manufactured shame and legislated inequality in isolation. Pride serves as a lifeline to

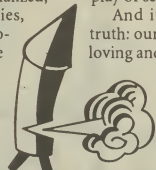
those less fortunate still questioning and discovering themselves. Pride celebrations acknowledge our struggle and remind our enemies that we refuse to sit idly while well-funded ideologies attempt to strip us of our humanity.

I will share my Pride – and encourage you to do the same – because our stories are most powerful and effective when they are told.

Michael Pedraza's Pride helped lift the veil of oppression I'd lived behind for so long. This month, and everyday, I am proud to do the same for others.

The gay rights movement has progressed significantly since the Stonewall riots of 1969, but the forces that conspire to keep us from participating fully in our country are alive and well still today. To compete, Pride must thrive. Now's your chance. ▼

Matt Lum is the Los Angeles-based digital content manager for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. For more information, and to view GLAAD's Pride Month 2003 media resource kit, visit [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).



Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

## Thanks, but ...

As an activist with the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network, I want to thank you for the accolade regarding our organizing around the Texas sodomy case [*"Apathy reigns?"*, Editorial, June 5].

Still, I take exception to the advice that the LGBT population of San Francisco take up an issue that "affects the community." Certainly the military actions against the Afghans and Iraqis have been "community" issues. To cite only one reason among many why this is so, the cutbacks in services to AIDS victims is directly attributable to the massive spending on arms and other military-related funding.

The Chicago Anti-Bashing Network has been "out against the war" since right after the terror attacks in September 2001. We have not only opposed war expenditures, but have defended Muslims, Arabs, and Southeast Asians who have been targeted by the government for discrimination much as gay people. Attacks on civil liberties have also affected our ability to get our issues out.

We appreciate your support against the Texas sodomy statute and hope that you will adopt a more comprehensive view of issues that impact our community.

Bob Schwartz  
CABN Coordinating Committee  
Chicago, Illinois

## For the record

I would like to correct one misstatement in Adam Sandel's otherwise excellent article about the GLBT History Museum's "Saint Harvey" exhibit [*"Harvey, now and forever,"* June 5]. Harvey was assassinated shortly after 11 a.m. on November 27, 1978 - not that night as Sandel states. I was working in Harvey's office when it happened.

Jim Rivaldo  
San Francisco

## Smoking in the gay community

In light of the study published in the June issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, it's time for the long overdue dialogue about smoking in the gay and lesbian community [*"Study: Tobacco company took advantage of gays,"* June 5]. There are many people within our community, myself included, who suffer from illnesses brought on by exposure to secondhand smoke. Each time I see a new doctor who asks me how many packs a day I smoked, I am outraged. I have never smoked a cigarette in my life, but my choice as a gay man was between socializing in smoke or staying home. I am 54 years old and have known that secondhand smoke was the cause of my illnesses since the age of 17. After watching my partner, Rob, struggle with secondhand smoke during his AIDS-related illness, I decided to dedicate my life to fighting the tobacco pandemic. In the eight years since his death I have lost my 41-year-old niece, an uncle, and my father all to lung cancer within a 13-month period. Since my father's death I have dedicated much of my free time to searching the secret tobacco industry documents to try to find some resolution.

In San Francisco and California most people assume the issue of smoking in public places has been resolved. The truth is, many other places are passing more comprehensive legislation that addresses issues we sweep under the carpet. The answer to the problem of nicotine addiction is to get the general public to stop being enablers to smokers. This means we have to always consider the right to breathe clean air more important than the need to satisfy an addiction. *Mother Jones* magazine listed the mayor of San Francisco as "the recipient of more tobacco money than any other politician in the country." It is not surprising then that the San Francisco Department of Public Health has been instructed to interpret the California smokefree law in a way that favors the tobacco industry and smokers while continuing to expose the public to secondhand smoke. Every year more bars remove the facades of their businesses to allow them to place ashtrays on the tables once again. To persons with respiratory disease it doesn't matter if smokers are inside or outside, the effect of exposure can be dangerous. The core of smoke from a cigarette travels three yards before it even begins to break up. The Environmental Protection Agency has classified secondhand smoke as a Class A carcinogen, which means there is no acceptable level of human exposure.

Robert Starkey  
San Francisco

## Tobacco industry no friend to gays

I was excited on my first visit to my uncle in the Castro in San Francisco. I am a mother of four who has a son with asthma. I wanted to have the California experience of smokefree public places. My uncle also suffers from respiratory disease, so he understands my family's struggle with secondhand smoke. I was disappointed when we had to leave a popular video bar on 18th Street because smoke drifted in from people smoking in the doorway. My uncle con-

fessed he couldn't go to the coffee shop across the street because they slide the windows open and people sit on the bench outside smoking. The smoke drifts back inside the shop.

The whole world sees California as the birthplace of the smokefree movement. Many of us with ties to the gay community also understand that many gay men are behind successful smokefree organizations, such as the one responsible for the new smokefree law in New York City. Because of my son I understand the dangers of secondhand smoke outdoors. Perhaps it is time for California to lead the world again and finish the job that was started 10 years ago. Perhaps it is time for the gay community to use its expertise in dealing with dangerous diseases and take the lead in the struggle to end the cause of more deaths than AIDS and gay bashing combined. The tobacco industry has never been a friend of the gay community. You are just another expendable minority in their quest for profit from death.

Ann Woodard  
Kennedale, Texas

## Newsom's 'hero'

I simply can't sit quietly while Keith Wade declares that Gavin Newsom has "an impeccable record on our issues" [*Mailstrom*, June 5].

A little history: shortly after Newsom was appointed to the Board of Supervisors, he picked a very public fight with Tom Ammann by authoring a resolution honoring Colin Powell as a "hero." This was just a short time after Powell had endorsed a ban against gays and lesbians serving in the military. Newsom could have authored a mild resolution thanking Powell for his work on volunteerism (which is what the resolution was about). Instead, he chose to call someone a "hero" who publicly supported discrimination against gays and lesbians.

If the gays and lesbians who are supporting Newsom have considered this history and decided to support Newsom on other issues, that is their decision. But to assert that he has been "impeccable" on our issues is a complete insult to my intelligence.

Ryan Clary  
San Francisco

## Lighten up over 'geezers'

Gosh, Stan, lighten up [*Mailstrom*, June 5]. I think there are many more important issues than whether the Geezers Ball constitutes an ageist put-down. In fact, if you're concerned about ageism, perhaps you could turn your attention to the reasons older gays might need functions like the Geezers Ball. Reasons like being ignored, rejected, or snickered at when they go to more youth-oriented venues.

I'm 50 and I'm diligently, and proudly, working at becoming as eccentric as geezerdom will allow. I've lived through reclaiming "queer" and I'm not going to get bent out of shape over "geezers." Some of the older women I know started reclaiming "crone" back in the last decade.

Stan, you don't say how old you are. But if you're over 40, you're going to need a better sense of humor to deal with aging. And if you're under 40, it's presumptuous for you to think we "dull-witted" (per Random House) geezers need you to be offended on our behalf. We are still fully capable expressing ourselves on our own.

W. J. Callahan  
San Francisco

## Continued disrespect to elders

Once again, queer elders are being held up to ridicule, courtesy of organizations that supposedly serve them. The Geezers Ball is produced or sponsored by New Leaf, Stop AIDS, and other organizations as a way to enrich themselves and their overpaid executives through community and city funding. I am a strong, powerful, effective elder in the community, not some geezer to insensitive smart-ass agency people in need of a reason for their existence. I am petitioning San Francisco's Commission on Aging to withhold all funding to any agency involved in this insulting activity to pioneers who created today's queer culture. It is my wish that New Leaf and the Stop AIDS Project no longer receive funding as they have shown themselves to be unworthy of community support. I know many gay men over 40 who do not consider themselves geezers and want nothing to do with this poorly conceived event or the agencies responsible.

I no longer contribute to any of the agencies involved in the Geezers Ball and encourage readers of all ages to do likewise. Without funding, these agencies and the parasites who work for them will disappear and be forced to make a real contribution to the community they claim to be serving instead of amusing themselves at the expense of those who created our community.

Boycott the Geezers Ball and the organizations producing this insulting event. Join me in petitioning the Commission on Aging to deny all money for any agency using the Geezers Ball as a justification for

next page ►

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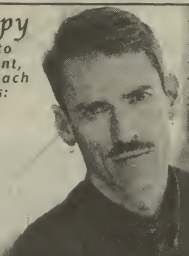
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The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

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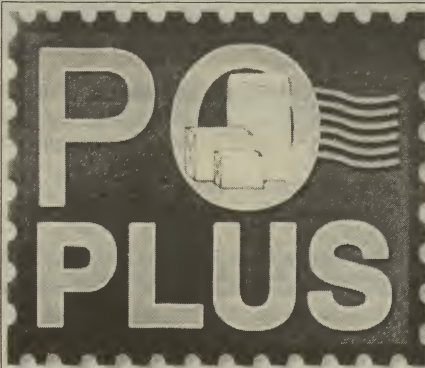
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## Mailstrom

◀ previous page

funding. In this era of funding shortages, this is the first place to cut.

John Cailleau  
 San Francisco

## Applauds 'geezer'

Yankee, beatnik, fag, bitch, hippy, queer, pagan, pervert, crone, dyke, geezer — each is a dysphemism which some recipients tried to "reclaim." As oysters turn irritating sand grains into pearls, the oppressed may wear an insult as a badge of pride.

Senior Unlimited Nudes applauds the linguistic warriors who organize and attend SF's annual Geezers Ball.

PS: Larry-bob Roberts is correct! The B.A.R. needs a Web site.

Tortuga Bi Liberty  
 Senior Unlimited Nudes  
 San Francisco

## Helping those who need it

I am writing this letter to bring more attention to quickly disappearing resources that are available to our community. This community, which is made up of LGBT individuals, has always been marginalized. But with the current Republican administration in Washington along with the dismal state of the economy, our status and respect can only be expected to worsen. Here in San Francisco we have always managed to take care of each other even when the rest of the country only viewed us as freaks and degenerates. A place as wonderful as New Leaf could not even exist outside of our beautiful city. But now this wonderful place where many of my friends have sought help and received professional services that helped them to change their lives may have to start turning our community members away or worse yet, close.

This is due in part to the terrible state of the economy that is somewhat out of most of our control. It is no surprise that many funding cuts will occur to many deserving people and agencies. But when these cuts do occur it is up to the agency to make these cuts as gentle as possible to the people who receive services. It is becoming common knowledge that this is not happening at New Leaf. Recently it was announced that the Meeting Place, an establishment open for 30 years, is closing to save New Leaf money. However, New Leaf is not closing an elaborate, posh complex of offices that has nothing to do with services for the needy. These offices house the executive director, Joe Neisen, and staff, and seem very extravagant considering the state of the economy. Companies shed overpriced office space in tight times all of the time and leases can be broken, but New Leaf has chosen to close the Meeting Place, a lower cost space that provides services to clients and provides a place where groups like AA and NA — to name a couple — meet cheaply, while the executive staff sit in luxurious spaces seemingly immune to the world outside.

Recently at an agency in the East Bay, after receiving the same type of budget cuts, the director took a voluntary 25 percent pay cut to help his clients not to lose any more of the services that they were receiving. However, no such statement has come from the New Leaf upper staff. It has been learned that this same executive staff has asked the clinical staff to voluntarily give back some wages but have set no such example by offering some of their high salaries as a give back first. This sounds like the recent American Airlines issue, where upper management was asking unions to give back wages while secretly giving themselves a raise in pension and other benefits. Those American Airlines executives have now been relieved of their jobs, being replaced with people who understand compassion that should accompany cost cutting measures. Maybe the New Leaf administration has forgotten that they are nonprofit and if they don't like small offices and similar wages, they should look for work in the business world. In these tough times we need leaders who remember our struggle and that it is not over. Selfish interests need to be put aside, and we must continue to help those who need help.

Alan Jones  
 San Francisco

## Honor Jo-Carol

I was shocked and saddened to see that my long time friend Jo Carol Davidson died unexpectedly ["Singer, AIDS fundraiser Jo-Carol Davidson dies," June 5]. She, of "Jo-Lo," was an early constant on the stage, and gave us great moral support in the formation of Folsom, years ago, and she was also the most fun "happening" on the streets in the "Balloon Girl" floats years ago at the parade.

I was personally very fond of her, and I hope she will be properly acknowledged for her constant gift of herself, and her talent to the gay community, especially during the first wave of AIDS, and beyond.

If there is any kind of tribute to her at the parade in the works, I would like to know about it, and help out as appropriate.

I am sure many of her friends feel a similar im-

pulse to honor her this year at Pride.

She was a lovely, vibrant human being, and I miss her. It is appropriate that she passed away on her way to the next level of her career, in cabaret. She was a passionate performer, and we were blessed to have her walk with us and lend her voice to our emotions, during good days and bad, over the last 20 years.

Kathleen Connell, Co-Founder  
 Folsom Street Fair  
 San Francisco

## Feels study flawed

Regarding the study on failure to disclose HIV status ["Study: HIV+ fail to disclose status to sexual partners," May 29]: The article on failure to disclose positive status took the information available off the Web and newspapers pertaining to this study and was put together well.

My problem with the study is that I feel that it is flawed and will just be used as a political piece for the far right and their causes, read your editorial of the same date "They're at it again."

The "researchers estimated that 17,400" gay and bisexual men had had undisclosed sex, this from a total of 606 gay and bi men, interviewed out of a "national sampling."

I am a positive man, have been for over 20 years. I have two Web sites and that is how they start out, "I am POZ and if this is a problem, pass me by."

In the Bay Area if two men want to have sex they are stupid to the extreme to assume that one or both is negative. Unless you are looking to become positive, treat everyone like they are positive. People lie just get laid, and don't we know it!

David Johnson  
 Oakland, California

## Beyond the headline

Tabloid-style headlines that consistently cast HIV-positive members of our community in a bad light make it harder for many to be open about their HIV status. If one were to only read the headline "Study: HIV+ fail to disclose status to sexual partners" [May 29] and perhaps the first paragraph (which many people do) one might think that there were many gay men being totally irresponsible with their sexual choices.

A reader has a bit of work in store if he's to decipher that in fact very few of those 42 percent "failing" (or choosing not) to disclose are engaging in high-risk behavior. Rather than congratulating the vast majority of the HIV+ gay men participating in this study for their effective harm-reduction techniques from the get-go, they're once again demonized simply to grab a bit of attention on the front page. Come on guys, HIV+ gay men read the B.A.R. too and we do not enjoy being bad-mouthed in the headline, only to be found in the body of the otherwise fine article on this otherwise "not alarming in any conceivable way" behavioral study. So please stop adding to the existing stigma faced by HIV+ gay men by pandering to the very real fears our community has about contracting this still potentially deadly virus. Wouldn't it have been delightful for everyone in our AIDS-weary community to have read in bold-type on the front page that "Only 3.2% HIV+ have had unprotected anal insertive sex to ejaculation w/o disclosure?"

Watch what you shout from the rooftops.

Richard Broussard  
 San Francisco

## 'Most gay guys like sleaze'

What's all this talk about do-gooders wanting to clean up the Castro ["City unleashes 'war' on litter in Castro," May 29]? I like the Castro the way it is and would not feel comfortable if it were clean and tidy. No gay neighborhood is clean and orderly, for if it were it wouldn't be a gay place to hang out.

Sticky sidewalks enable me to walk slower and look in the store windows. The many bars let me stop and have a drink and visit. Trash in the streets reminds me of my childhood when my mother screamed at me for throwing everything in the street and being a slob. In the Castro I can do all those things and feel at home.

Dunks and bums, speed freaks, and stoned people bring out the hidden desire in me to help out my fellow men. I have followed the advice of Little Tommi Whatever and given money to the bums in the parking lot who have no other place to go and sleep and who litter the area with their filth and waste, both mental and physical. When I go about the Castro area I see so many dirty, wretched people that I feel like I am an undercover Salvation Army agent looking for clients.

Yes, the Castro is a happy place just the way it is. No self-respecting gay person would want anything to change because most gay guys like sleaze, drinking, running from bar to bar, getting wiped out, stoned, and wasted. This is our home. So all you do-gooders who want a clean, tidy place free of graffiti and debris, go elsewhere and let our people be.

Andrew Betancourt  
 San Francisco



## POLITICS

# Gephardt's lesbian daughter in campaign role

by Wayne Friday

Representative **Richard Gephardt** of Missouri, one of the leading Democrats seeking his party's presidential nomination next year, said recently that he "is very proud" of his lesbian daughter, **Chrissy**, and "very much wants her to help in his campaign."

Few have read or heard much from **Mary Cheney** since her father became vice president in January 2001, but voters and the American public are likely to become well acquainted with Chrissy Gephardt, a 30-year-old social worker who is about to take a position in her father's campaign and who will become the first openly gay child of a major American presidential contender to stump as an ambassador to the nation's gay community.

According to a recent story in the *Los Angeles Times* and reported by numerous wire services, Chrissy Gephardt, who was then married to a doctor, met a young woman, **Amy Loder**, in graduate school whom she found attractive and eventually fell in love. However, roiled by personal guilt

and concerned about her famous father's political career, she began seeing a therapist. Two years ago, she woke her husband in the middle of the night to tell him their marriage was over, and why. The two were divorced in late 2001, and Ms. Gephardt still calls her former husband "one of her best friends."

Chrissy Gephardt and Loder now live in a Capitol Hill apartment in Washington they share with a dog and two cats. A month after Chrissy told her husband that their marriage must end, she then told her parents.

"Most people come out to their friends first and then to their family," Ms. Gephardt told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I did it the other way around, because I thought we should keep it as a family secret for political reasons." However, Congressman Gephardt and his wife, **Jane**, immediately told their daughter that they loved her and had no intentions of hiding their affection nor the fact they had a lesbian daughter. Indeed, in the 2002 Gephardt family Christmas card, Chrissy is pictured with her partner, along with the rest of the family.

Can a liberal Democrat from Missouri with an openly lesbian daughter be elected president of the United States next year? Most political analysts feel that Gephardt actually raises the stakes for the country's gay and lesbian voters by having his daughter helping seek support for her father from the growing politically-potent LGBT community, pointing out that homosexuality is now so widely accepted by most American voters that candidates who ignore the homosexual community do so at their own risk.

"Gay people are now part of the American family," said **David Smith** of the Human Rights Campaign, a bipartisan organization that works for LGBT rights. "Chrissy Gephardt helps us because she puts a face to who we are and helps the country under-



Amy Loder, left, and Chrissy Gephardt

stand us better," Smith told the *Times*.

Predictably, some conservative groups have derided the move by the Gephardt camp as another case of using the personal for partisan gains.

The *Times* points out that some political strategists say Chrissy Gephardt's gay activism may be a slight political plus for her father, prompting LGBT voters to give his candidacy a second look. If so, however, the advantage would be a marginal one, in part because this year's Democratic field of nine candidates is the most pro-gay

in history.

**Howard Dean** signed the nation's first civil union law when he was governor of Vermont. Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry**, and former Illinois Senator **Carol Moseley Braun** were among the 14 senators who voted against the 1996 law banning gay marriages. Indeed, all Democratic candidates except Florida Senator **Bob Graham** publicly endorse health and pension benefits for gay partners, and most support lifting the ban on gays serving in the military. Another contender, Senator **John Edwards** of North Carolina, earlier this year openly endorsed adoption by gays.

The *Times* recently reported that the latest Gallup Poll shows that six in 10 Americans support giving same-sex couples the same legal rights—to visit a partner in the hospital, to get health coverage and Social Security benefits—as heterosexual couples. In 1982 Gallup first asked voters whether they consider homosexuality an acceptable "lifestyle." Then, 34 percent said yes; now the figure is 54 percent.

And in what the Gallup Poll calls "one of the most dramatic developments in the last three decades," Americans are displaying a growing willingness to say they would vote for a well-qualified woman, Jew, black, or gay person for president. In 1978, the Gallup Poll first asked voters whether they would support a homosexual for president. Then, 26 percent said they would; now, the figure is 59 percent.

Though some national political figures (think Pennsylvania Senator **Rick Santorum**) are still seen as openly homophobic, even the Republican Bush White House strategists seem to understand the new power of gay voters, particularly in a close election. HRC's Smith pointed out, in comments to the *Times*, that **George W. Bush** has appointed an openly gay ambassador to Romania, and "has been as neutral as he can possibly

be" on gay issues.

Representative Gephardt, meanwhile, recently told the *Boston Globe* that while he still does not support gay marriage, he does back civil unions, saying "it's basic decency" and adds that they are more politically salable. Gephardt, incidentally, was a co-sponsor last year of a bill that would extend benefits to partners of gay federal employees.

For her part, Chrissy Gephardt says she is looking forward to the political journey ahead. She is reportedly already lobbying her father to endorse gay marriage instead of merely civil unions, or as Ms. Gephardt said, "I'd rather shoot for the moon and fall among the stars." On other issues important to the gay community—hate crime legislation, protection from job discrimination, and benefits for domestic partners—Ms. Gephardt and her liberal father are in clear accord.

## Politics and people

Now don't get too excited, but a Green Party member was recently elected to the Maine state Legislature (a \$9,000 per year, part-time position) making him the second state legislator in the country; New Jersey Assemblyman **Matt Ahern**, elected as a Democrat, recently switched his party registration to Green.

**Arnold Schwarzenegger**, long mentioned as a potential GOP candidate for governor, told *Esquire* magazine for its upcoming July issue: "Yes, I would love to be governor of California ... if the state needs me, and if there is no one I think is better, then I will run." Schwarzenegger, 55, said he would decide whether to run after the July 2 release of *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines*, and would run only if it becomes clear the effort to recall Governor **Gray Davis** actually qualifies for the ballot. Guvnor Ah-nold? Give me a break.

Denver voters last week elected Democrat **John Hickenlooper**, a pro-gay proprietor of eight restaurants, as the mayor of the nation's 25th largest city.

Congratulations and thanks for the hard work that Assemblymembers **Jackie Goldberg** (D-Los Angeles), **Mark Leno** (D-San Francisco), and **Christine Kehoe** (D-San Diego) did in getting Goldberg's AB205 passed last week in Sacramento. The bill cleared the Assembly 41-29 and now goes to the state Senate. It assures that same-sex partners would enjoy many of the same rights and responsibilities of marriage and represents a major coup for gay rights activists who have battled for years to increase recognition for more than 18,000 same-sex couples registered with the state as domestic partners. The bill's passage landed Leno on two national TV shows on the same day; Leno appeared on MSNBC's *Crossfire* with **Pat Buchanan** and **Bill Press** as well as on Fox's *Hannity & Colmes* program last Friday; the guy is a natural.

There was a huge crowd at **Kamala Harris's** kick-off rally Saturday at the Women's Building for her campaign for district attorney; she will make a great one.

Back in the city: State Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) might not like those billboards paid for by the San Francisco Hotel Council asking people not to give

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# Earning your stripes

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

**H**ear me out: I want to propose a radical idea.

Unless you have been living in a cave for the last couple of decades, then you are familiar with the rainbow flag. Indeed, this series of six stripes is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. When Gilbert Baker first put the rainbow flag out there, however, it had two additional stripes: hot pink above the red, and turquoise between the green and blue.

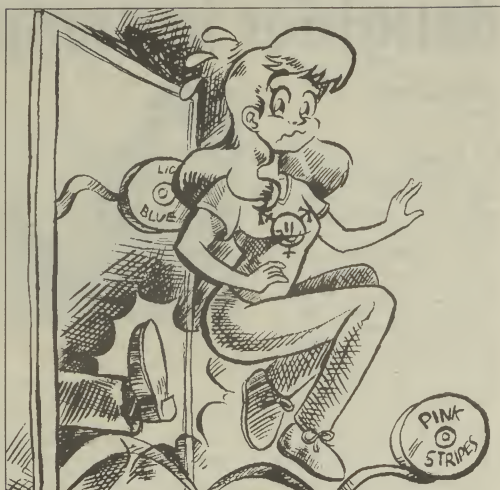
Within a year of the flag's introduction, these two colors were dropped from the flag, due to lack of commercially viable inks and an attempt to keep the number of colors even. Never mind the possibility of some great in-jokes about the flag's color's being "odd." But I digress.

In the early years of the gay rights movement, there was at least some involvement from individuals one would now call "transgender." There has been a lot of debate about just how much of a trans presence there was during those early struggles, but there can be little doubt that there was at least some obvious involvement — whether it was the courageous personal acts of Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson at Stonewall, or just the struggles of a handful of ground breaking trans-rights organizations in the 1970s.

Then something changed. By the mid-1970s, the idea of the movement as being a place where one was free to be what they wanted to be was out, replaced with a desire to be "normative." The move to be seen as "just like them" was on, and this led to a purge of trans presentation in all forms — from "spit drag" on up — within gay rights circles. Transgenderism was simply "too different" to be a part of this push for normalcy.

It wasn't all about being normative though. In the lesbian movement, many resented the presence of transsexual women, purging organizations of transwomen, and setting policies against the presence of same. In a time that even butch and femme identities were viewed with suspicion, transsexuality was simply not to be tolerated.

It was a year after the rainbow flag was designed that Janice Raymond's book *The Transsexual Empire* came out, a text that is widely viewed as having been the final nail in the coffin of trans unity in the nascent gay and lesbian community. Raymond's book gave voice to anger that was simmering for a decade before, and whose remnants can be still seen today in events like the Michigan Womyn's



Christine Smith

Music Festival.

Transgenderism was out, discarded like those two colors.

When the flag was introduced, all the colors had a meaning behind them: green for nature, violet for spirit, and so on. Hot pink and turquoise were for sex and art, respectively.

I can't help but notice that pink and blue are also often used for another common description: woman and man. Now we get to the radical idea I mentioned earlier.

In some notable places in our community, transgender is still seen — at best — as the red-headed stepchild of the modern LGBT movement. That said, "transgender" has become more and more a part of the movement as a whole, with a strong visible transgender presence at Pride events and in many of our local and national organizations. Transgender has moved beyond some vague concept that was slowly being tacked onto the tail end of most organizational names and has now become a fast-growing and dynamic part of the overall movement.

I suggest that this be recognized. Everyone can have their stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and even violet. Divvy them up as you see fit, I don't mind. Just give us those two stripes. Heck, I'd even be willing to pass one of those two onto the bisexual community. After all, then I'd still be able to claim 'em both.

Of course, I do understand that one is always welcome to have another banner if our 25-year-old standard feels a little less than inclusive. There are flags for the leather community, for the bears, for the bisexuals, and for PWAs. There is even a "str8 pride" flag, consisting of black and white

stripes.

I should also mention that there is even a transgender pride flag, which — coincidentally or not — is mainly in pink and blue. I'll bet you'll be hard-pressed to find one of these within the local community, however, as I only know of a handful of such flags existing in this country. I'm the caretaker of one of these rare banners.

Now the fine purveyors of rainbow-colored novelties will not take to such a noble concept, but I would suggest that our rainbow flag reclaim its missing colors, and be an eight-hued banner once again.

Of course, I even have a more radical notion up my sleeve, something beyond a mere symbolic act. For those who already fight for our community, keep up the struggle, and take a good long look to see if you truly do view your work for trans rights to be on an equal footing with the rest of your good deeds.

Further, if you are part of an organization that doesn't work on behalf of transgenders, or if you simply pay lip service to the community — then it's time to evolve into a true voice for everyone's human rights.

Wouldn't that be radical? Rather than just viewing those stripes as some vague symbol — even if you only look at the six that are accepted today — think of how you can embrace the notion of true diversity, and expand to include the whole community.

Consider it a way to show that we do indeed include all our community under one flag. ▼

Gwen Smith wishes there was a place for the trans Pride flag in our local parade. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

## Pride Idol finalists



Duane Harper

**P**reliminary rounds of the Pride Committee's first "Pride Idol" contest are over and the finalists, most of whom are shown at the semifinals held June 4 at Harvey's, will compete for the top prize of \$1,000 and a prime spot on Pride's main stage. The final competition takes place Thursday, June 19 at Club Mezzanine, 444 Jessie Street, between 7-10 p.m. There were 71 entries at the beginning of the contest, which is underwritten by Redhook Ale Brewery and benefits the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund and the Positive Resource Center.



## COMMENTARY

# Will marriage victory bring backlash?

by Dale Carpenter

This could be a historic summer for gay rights. With all eyes focused on the coming U.S. Supreme Court sodomy decision, an even more significant court ruling may also soon arrive. The Massachusetts Supreme Court is expected to rule by mid-July in a case called *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*, which challenges the state's law limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples. Many legal experts put our chances in Massachusetts at 50-50 or better. So it's time to ask: if we finally get gay marriage in one state, will we face a "victory" backlash that makes our "victory" a Pyrrhic one?

As I argued in this space a month ago ("Will Supreme Court victory bring backlash?," OutRight, May 15), it's unlikely we'll face a ferocious reaction if the U.S. Supreme Court declares antigay sodomy laws unconstitutional. Only four states criminalize gay sex alone, leaving 46 states that don't.

By contrast, no state currently sanctions gay marriages, though Vermont recognizes same-sex civil unions. (Vermont's civil unions have not proved portable to other states.) The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, signed by Adulterer-in-Chief Bill Clinton, barred federal recognition of same-sex marriages and purported to free states to refuse to recognize them, too. Thirty-seven states have since passed their own "little DOMA"

laws explicitly barring recognition of same-sex marriages performed in another state. Polls show comfortable (but declining) majorities opposing gay marriage in most states; in every state where the issue has been placed on a ballot, we've lost by huge margins.

While a ruling for gays on sodomy laws would be consistent with a dominant national view about sexual privacy, a ruling for gays on marriage would swim against a strong national current about the definition of marriage.

What form might a marriage backlash take? The creativity of gay-rights opponents knows few bounds, so it's hard to say. At a minimum, the remaining 13 states that haven't yet adopted their own DOMAs would be pressured to do so.

The more dangerous and potentially more far-reaching reaction might come in the form of a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage altogether. Such an amendment, which would create a federal definition of marriage, has already been proposed. It has little support because Congress has so far seen no need for it. A state's recognition of full-fledged gay marriage, however, could change that.

Fortunately, the constitutional amendment process is by design notoriously difficult. Amendments must first be approved by a two-thirds majority in each house of Congress. They must then be

approved by three-fourths of the states (38 of 50, one more than have so far passed little DOMAs).

Though thousands of amendments have been proposed in the past two centuries on every conceivable subject, only 27 have been adopted. Ten of those came in one swoop as the Bill of Rights and three came in the immediate aftermath of the Civil War. So outside of those two transformative historical periods, only 14 amendments have passed.

That's about one every quarter-century. In our entire history, only four court decisions have been overruled by an explicit amendment. None of those were state court decisions. All this augurs well.

The stakes on this issue are unusually large, however. Gay marriage is now seen as the Holy Grail by both gay and antigay activists, the thing for which everything else seems like just a prelude. It's "the mother of all cultural battles," as one conservative commentator recently put it. Even the tussle over antigay sodomy laws, which are in themselves a more radical affront to equal gay citizenship, is being treated by the religious right as a rehearsal for the fight over gay marriage.

A victory in Massachusetts would not mean that every state must immediately recognize gay marriages, of course. So it could be that the political and legal consequences in the short term would be confined to that state.

It's a sure bet, however, that some gay couples married in Massachusetts will eventually try to have their unions recognized in other states. Moreover, a marriage victory in Massachusetts would pack more symbolic punch than the civil union victory in Vermont, a state with a less prominent place in the culture and history of the nation. It would literally put the fear of God in the opponents of gay marriage.

So if ever a state court decision could generate serious momentum for a constitutional amendment, this is the one. If adopted, such an amendment would set back the movement for gay marriage by perhaps 50 years, since it would take an extraordinary consensus supporting same-sex marriage to reverse it. Only one constitutional amendment – the one authorizing Prohibition – has ever been repealed.

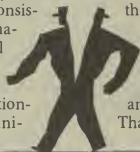
On the whole, I think it's unlikely a Massachusetts marriage victory by itself would generate a constitutional amendment. It

would probably take a pro-gay marriage ruling there *plus* another ruling from federal courts requiring that other states must recognize such marriages before a constitutional amendment would pass.

An advantage of our federal system is that it allows states to experiment with social change before the entire country adopts the change. If gay marriage becomes reality somewhere, and the sky doesn't fall, opposition to gay marriage may recede. The time-consuming nature of the constitutional amendment process may buy us enough time to ease fears.

But be on guard. With every gay-rights victory forced on unwilling democracies by courts, we come closer to the mother of all backlashes. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at [www.indigayforum.com](http://www.indigayforum.com). He can be reached at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com).



OutRight

## Our Man Friday

◀ page 9

to aggressive panhandlers, but I've got news for you senator – nearly everyone else does. Burton and the homeless advocates just don't get it – that the people of this city have had it with the ever-growing shopping-cart brigade (incidentally, where do all those carts come from, Carts-R-Us?) that have taken over

the streets of this once-magnificent city. I mean, some of the \$200 million we are spending annually on the homeless problem should be showing some results, shouldn't it? Does anyone really need any reason to understand why Supervisor Gavin Newsom, backed by those who voted for Proposition N, appears to be headed straight for the mayor's office? Think Rudy Giuliani, folks.

And how was your week? ▼

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**Thursday, June 19th**

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9:00 pm

**Friday, June 20th**

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# Borrowed worth

by Jane Warner

**P**atenco Credit Union, 2193 Market, June 6, 10:20 a.m.: The surveillance photo is of a man who allegedly walked into the credit union and opened a



Security footage of identity theft suspect

checking account with a fraudulent driver's license in someone else's name. The photo on the license, however, was him, according to credit union officials. After opening the new account, the man then obtained a loan from the credit union for \$18,000. If anyone has any information regarding the whereabouts of the above alleged suspect, they are asked to call the San Francisco Police Department at (415) 553-1521.

### Off the map

Harvey Milk Plaza, 400 Castro, May 24, 10:20 a.m.: Trevor Hailey, who conducts the Walking Tour of the Castro, reported to police that she was assaulted by a transient during one of her walking tours. Hailey reported that as her group approached Harvey Milk Plaza,

several transients were loitering nearby. One of the transients, a middle-aged Hispanic woman who appeared to be intoxicated, started to yell at one of the members of the tour group, calling him, among other things, a "nigger." The group tried to ignore the comments, but the woman continued to yell offensive and racially insensitive comments. Hailey finally turned to the woman and told her, "That's not very nice." Enraged, the woman approached Hailey and stated, "I've been in San Francisco all my life, I can say any goddamn thing I want." She then allegedly struck Hailey in the face with a closed fist. The blow knocked Hailey back a few steps. A passerby quickly intervened and called 911. The assailant, described as 40-45 years old, 5 feet 1 inches tall, 120 pounds, and wearing a red bandanna, was last seen running out of the plaza in an unknown direction. Responding police, who were

familiar with the suspect, could not locate her, but filed a restraining order asking for her to be barred from the Castro and Upper Market neighborhood.

### Forced feds

Fronting the Edge bar, 4149 18th Street, May 24, 1:30 a.m.:

While leaving the Edge bar, a man was approached by three men who stopped him on the sidewalk and told him they were with the FBI. One of the men showed an identification card and stated, "I'm an FBI agent and if you don't cooperate we're going to arrest you for DUI." The man wasn't driving, but he cooperated anyway. The three alleged agents searched his clothing and then allowed him to leave. When he got home, however, he discovered his wallet containing \$200 was missing. The suspects, described as African American between 30-35 years old, were last seen in the area of 18th and Collingwood streets. ▼



## Appeals court OKs Smith's release; Davis halts it again

by Ed Walsh

**I**n a judicial slap in the face for Governor Gray Davis, an appeals court ruled last week that the governor was out of line for blocking the parole of Mark Smith, 47, a gay prisoner who is suffering from several life-threatening diseases. Shortly after the ruling, Davis promised to appeal the decision, forcing Smith to remain locked up.

"The governor is showing his extreme inhumanity and inability to read a trial transcript by keeping Mark in prison," said Judy Greenspan of California Prison Focus. Greenspan has been involved with Smith's case for eight years.

On Thursday, June 5, the Second District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles, in a 2-1 vote, upheld a lower court ruling that ordered Smith's release. In its 25-page ruling, the appeals court was sharply critical of the governor noting that a "review of the record reveals no evidence to support the governor's decision."

Three years ago, the Board of Prison Terms, which only approves parole for about 1 percent of eligible candidates, ordered Smith freed but Davis blocked the release, writing in a veto message that Smith was "a person with little regard for human life."

"It's the governor's position that Mr. Smith poses an unreasonable danger to society," Davis spokesman Russ Lopez told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week. "We're not trying to be heartless."

Smith was convicted of second-degree murder for a 1985 killing in Los Angeles County. According to court records, Smith and another man, Kevin Leigh, got into a dispute with the victim, Rick Diamonon, over cocaine. Both men blamed each other for the killing. Diamonon was shot and drowned. When the two men were seen just after the killing, witnesses said that Leigh's clothes were wet while Smith's were dry. The judge who found Smith guilty now strongly supports his parole and wrote that he believes that Leigh killed Diamonon.

"To call Mark dangerous and culpable for a murder he didn't commit is vindictive and self-serving and not even [his original trial judge] agrees with that," Greenspan said.

After Davis blocked Smith's BPT-ordered release in 2000, Smith's lawyers appealed the decision to the courts arguing that Davis had no valid reason to block parole and that the governor has a virtual blanket policy against parole. Davis once vowed to block the parole of all convicted killers and since taking office has only allowed for parole in five cases.

"The governor has a very strong record on public safety," Lopez noted. "He's always believed that when someone takes another sacred human life, the person who takes that life has to pay a price."

Last year, a Los Angeles County Superior Court judge agreed with Smith's attorneys and ordered his immediate release. Davis appealed and was granted a stay of release pending a higher court decision. Despite last week's appeals court ruling, Smith will likely remain locked up until the governor's appeals are exhausted.

In a three-page dissenting opinion, Second District Court of Appeal Justice Rueben Ortega wrote: "The governor's version of the facts is a more accurate interpretation of the evidence. At the very least, the convictions [of Smith and Leigh] mean Smith aided and abetted the gruesome events. That means the governor is justified in concluding that Smith is as responsible as Leigh for beating, shooting, robbing, and drowning [the victim]. The majority's conclusion that 'no' evidence supports the governor on this point ignores the Penal Code's provision that 'all persons concerned in the commission of a crime ... are principals in any crime so committed.'"

Over the past nine years in prison, Smith has been battling AIDS, heart disease, cancer, and Parkinson's disease. Smith told the *B.A.R.* that he's determined to die free. ▼

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# Harris enters D.A. race

by Zak Szymanski



Kamala Harris kicks off her campaign for district attorney.

Here's a riddle," openly gay Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) offered to a crowd gathered at the Women's Building on Saturday, June 7. "What do Mayor Willie Brown, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Assemblyman Mark Leno, and Harry Britt have in common?"

The answer, shouted by the hundreds in attendance, was "Kamala," and the more meaningful punch line was that in a city often divided by politics, one candidate for the district attorney's race has managed to unite diverse populations.

That was a prominent message as Kamala Harris kicked off her campaign to a high-energy celebration that included performances by the Larry Jazz Band, the Top Notch Steppers, and a traditional Chinese dragon dance. Supporters in attendance included Leno; Supervisors Peskin, Fiona Ma, and Sophie Maxwell; and a host of others representing various ethnic and cultural communities; LGBT activists and advocates; and legal, religious, and government leaders.

"I hope you're looking around," noted Leno, "and really taking in the beauty of this room. The diversity of this room is the diversity of San Francisco."

Harris, 38, is a veteran prosecutor with 13 years of courtroom experience who has served as a deputy district attorney in San Francisco and Alameda County. She is currently a San Francisco deputy city attorney under City Attorney Dennis Herrera, and chief of the department's community and neighborhood division, where she has spearheaded a task force on teenage prostitution.

As co-chair of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, president of the board of directors of Partners Ending Domestic Abuse, founder of a San Francisco Museum of Modern Art youth mentoring program, and recipient of an award recognizing her work to secure gay couples' equal adoption rights, it is evident why her career achievements appeal to such a broad base of voters.

But even more important than the demographic makeup of her supporters is what all these groups have in common: a desire for change in the district attorney's office that has yet to be fulfilled, as Harris put it, by the last two races in which "one guy represents one extreme, and the other guy represents the other."

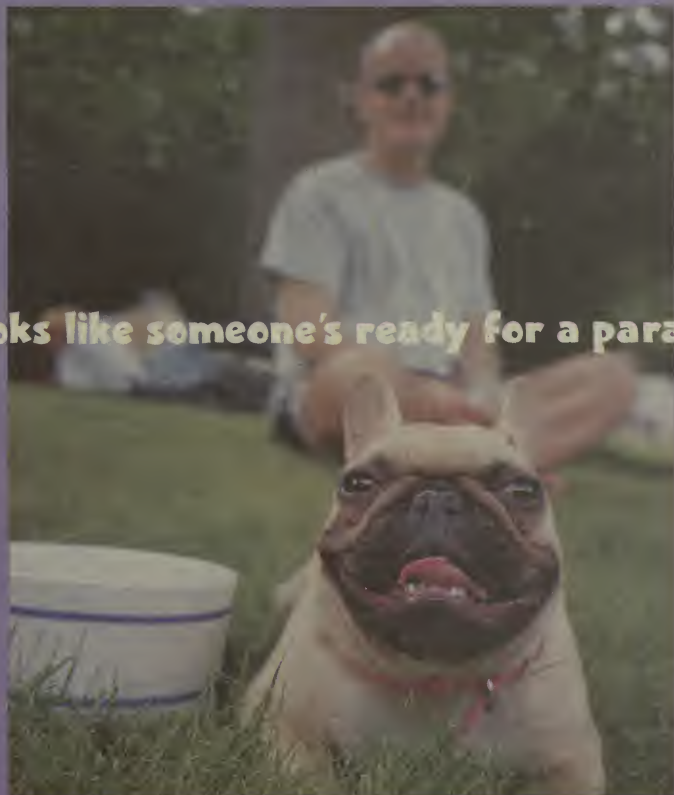
Harris, like past and present D.A. candidate Bill Fazio — described by some as a man with a "lock 'em up" mentality — wants to replace incumbent D.A. Terence Hallinan when his current term ends in January. Aside from Hallinan's lowest serious crime conviction rate in the state — at 36 percent — Harris takes issue with Hallinan's ethics, and what she has called a lack of professionalism, as well as a politically-motivated soft stance on crimes.

"I don't believe it is compassionate," said Harris, "to ignore quality of life crimes — for those who commit them, or those who suffer from them."

Harris pledged more drug treatment for crimes in which substance abuse is a factor; a community-wide alliance to stop gang violence, including better witness protection programs; and reinvig-

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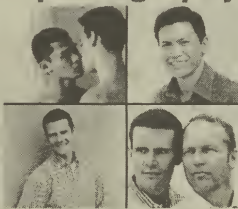
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# Recite your vows for Pride

by Zak Szymanski

So the religious figures are primarily drag nuns, and many of the guests are likely to be adorned in leather and rainbows. The annual San Francisco Pride domestic partnership ceremony set for Saturday, June 28 still has all the elements of traditional dreams.

Held on the Pride main stage in front of San Francisco's City Hall, the mass ceremony later this month is open to all LGBT couples who wish to publicly recognize their commitment. The event features music by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, a blessing offered by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, free domestic partnership registration at the state level, and a champagne reception.

The ceremony is led annually by Carole Migden, the former assemblywoman who authored Cal-

ifornia's landmark domestic partnership law who now serves as chair of the state Board of Equalization, where her groundbreaking tax rules for domestic partners are up for final approval next month. Rules 462.240 and 462.040 seek to change property tax rules that will prevent property tax increases on the transfer of domestic partners' real property when one of the partners dies.

The domestic partner ceremony usually attracts dozens of couples, from the Bay Area and beyond.

This year's ceremony takes on special importance, noted Migden, as the community will advocate for smooth passage of the tax laws as well as expanded domestic partnership protections pending in the state Legislature.

"Every time we do the ceremony," said Migden, "we are reminded about the steps we need to take to get our rights."

Migden will be joined on stage by several San Francisco mayoral candidates, including the openly gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano; out lesbian city Treasurer Susan Leal; former Supervisor Angela Alioto, and Supervisor Gavin Newsom, all of whom will offer their support for LGBT equality.

Participants should arrive on Saturday, June 28 at noon to register with the notaries and assemble for the ceremony, which starts at 1:05 p.m. Each member of the couple need only bring identification with a photograph; forms and notaries will be provided free of charge. Couples will also be allowed to bring two guests to the reception, which immediately follows the ceremony in the media tent next to the stage.

Interested couples are asked to RSVP to Migden's office by Friday, June 20; call (415) 552-5214. Additionally, volunteer notaries are still needed to donate their time. ▼

## Kamala Harris

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orated programs for at-risk youth. She pledged full prosecution of domestic violence cases, which account for half of all women who are killed in San Francisco. She intends to set up neighborhood crime councils and community courts, and to form partnerships with organizations to ensure that while there are consequences for crimes, there are also initiatives to stop the causes of those crimes. She wants police officers to be a neighborhood presence, but a force that gives respect as well as receives it. And she plans to implement 24-hour on-call district attorneys for homicide cases as well as round-the-clock search warrant services for police.

"You have told me there are gangs in the Mission. That there is an unacceptable number of young men being killed in the Bayview. That you want to walk the streets

and feel safe, and secure, and proud," said Harris to frequent applause. "You have said you will have faith in the system as long as you know it is just."

Emphasizing the grassroots nature of the campaign, Harris called for her supporters to collectively assert that it is time for "today's voice for justice - which is all of us."

### Community voices

Speakers at Harris's kickoff praised the candidate for her vision as well as experience.

The Reverend Dr. James McCray Jr. called for a "new spirit" in the office of district attorney, and remarked, "Wherever people of diverse backgrounds gather together, there is power."

John Hanley, president of the San Francisco Firefighters Local 798, called Harris "tough, fair, and equal."

Sonia Melara, of the Latino Political Action Committee, said that change is needed with regard to

"victimless crimes" because, "for every victimless crime, there is a victim."

Leno said that Harris's "razor sharp intellect" serves her well as a tough prosecuting attorney, as does her "enormous heart ... she is so invested in her clients."

And Dr. Shyamala Harris, Kamala's mother, who raised her daughter in the midst of civil rights marches, remembered a moment when she bent down to ask her fussy baby, "What do you want," and the 1-year-old replied, "Freedom!"

If elected in November, Harris will be the first woman and first African American to hold the office of district attorney.

At Saturday's kickoff, Harris thanked her mother for instilling in her a highly-valued belief, "never to settle for mediocrity ... as there's simply no time." ▼

For more information, visit  
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# AGUILAS campaign targets gay, bi Latinos

by Zak Szymanski

It's long been known that members of the many different gay and bisexual communities respond most to prevention and well-being messages that speak to their specific cultural backgrounds.

In order to open a dialogue and encourage healthy behavior among Latinos, the gay and bisexual nonprofit AGUILAS has launched an advertising campaign within and outside of San Francisco's Muni vehicles. The campaign also serves to educate the broader community about issues facing gays and Latinos.

The result of intensive focus groups, the ads take into account the particularly strong familial bond of many Latino cultures, as well as the reception that many Latinos receive within white, mainstream gay culture. The campaign is intended, said AGUILAS Executive Director Eduardo Morales, Ph.D., to be a first step to identifying and removing the obstacles to reducing HIV and sexually transmitted diseases.

The campaign is being funded by the San Francisco Department of Public Health, though AGUILAS did not have specific cost figures, citing the ongoing nature of the campaign.

"For the first campaign we wanted to take what people felt were basic and important first steps, in order to derive some of the issues that could be barriers to

STD and HIV prevention," said Morales.

Some of those issues, like coming out, tend to be universal. But there are certain feelings and beliefs that tend to be more particular to Latinos, said Morales, including feelings of isolation, which in part comes from the difficulty of trying to merge two cultural identities.

"What prevents some Latino gay and bisexual men from participating in HIV prevention programs? How Latino guys often relate to guys of other ethnicities — particularly white guys — can be a stressor," said Morales. "Many Latinos are objectified as sex objects within the broader gay community. There is also a power dynamic there in terms of those relationships. And when they enter a program with a more generic gay population they may find themselves reluctant to open up about managing the conflicts that arise from being Latino and different."

The advertisements — which began running on June 9 as four separate posters — identify a few main points, such as family ties, the need for community, and discrimination. Focus group research produced the following social marketing ad slogans:

• "I don't want to hurt my family. That makes talking about the truth so hard."

• "See me for who I am. You deserve to be accepted."

• "Important days start like any other. Today I accepted myself, learned something, had fun. I feel

fine."

• "Because I love my friends and family I can't risk my health."

Additionally, the advertisements feature the real pictures of focus group participants, who strongly believed that the campaign should portray real people in everyday situations as opposed to sexually loaded images.

"The guys were so excited about the campaign," said Morales, "they ran home and went through their photo albums."

On the downside, noted AGUILAS officials, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has decided to no longer directly fund HIV prevention programs except for HIV-positive people and their partners.

"This is at a time when the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to increase among minority communities, and when local and state governments are also reducing funding for HIV/AIDS," said an AGUILAS statement.

AGUILAS plans community meetings to discuss and strategize around the impact of the CDC decision.

In the meantime, said Morales, AGUILAS hopes to hear from community members about their reaction to the ad campaign.

"It will be good to know how to evaluate this campaign," said Morales. "We'd like to hear how people have responded." ▼

For more information, visit [www.sfguilas.org](http://www.sfguilas.org).



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## PipeVine scandal

◀ page 1

good on all local Bay Area donors' gifts" that were made through PipeVine.

Wilson said UWBA is cooperating with the attorney general's investigation and other PipeVine customers.

"We're still awaiting further information," Wilson said.

PipeVine, which used to be a subsidiary of UWBA's, became an independent nonprofit on July 1, 2000, Wilson said.

For every dollar donated to UWBA, Wilson said that 86 cents goes to the community and 14 cents goes to United Way; PipeVine collected approximately 5 percent of that 14 cents for its fees, Wilson explained.

The B.A.R. spoke with leaders of several LGBT and AIDS nonprofits. All expressed concern about the problem and some receive significant portions of their

agency budgets from UWBA workplace giving. The leaders also expressed confidence in UWBA's handling of the problem, particularly its pledge to make good on donations that PipeVine had not distributed at the time of its demise.

At Project Open Hand, which provides meals and groceries to people living with AIDS as well as others who are homebound or critically ill, Executive Director Tom Nolan said the agency received more than \$460,000 since 1996 from PipeVine. During the last two years, Project Open Hand received an average of \$95,000 annually through the PipeVine/UWBA program.

"We actively promote workplace donor giving," Nolan told the B.A.R. "The sad thing about this is anything that puts doubt in donors' minds hurts us all. There's a general notion that the money is not going where it's supposed to."

Nolan said his agency has not yet spoken with UWBA officials,

but said he is confident in Wilson's pledge for UWBA to make good on any outstanding donations.

One problem with PipeVine when it was in operation, Nolan said, was that based on the information provided to the agency, Project Open Hand was not able to verify whether it received the donor's full pledge amount, instead having to rely on PipeVine to accurately report the correct pledge. Nolan said he hopes that changes if a new vendor is selected or if UWBA takes over PipeVine's collection and fund distribution operations.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation received \$130,000 through UWBA workplace donations last year, according to spokesman Redge Norton. He said SFAF has put calls in to UWBA.

"We feel encouraged," Norton told the B.A.R. last week, before hundreds of bicyclists left San Francisco en route to Los Angeles for the second annual AIDS/Life-

next page ▶

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## Pride at DOJ OK

◀ page 1

Department of Justice had been told that they could not hold their annual Pride awards ceremony at the department. It marked the first time that had happened at any federal agency in recent history.

Marina Colby, president of DOJ Pride, said she "received a letter at the end of May from the Equal Employment Opportunity office saying that there would be no Pride event, and I need to talk with them."

Because there was no presidential proclamation declaring gay Pride, and none from Attorney General John Ashcroft, Ashcroft's office had ruled that the event could not take place at the department.

"I'm really surprised that it was canceled because we had

been working with the EEO staff, we have already selected the annual award recipients and the date was confirmed. And then to get this decision was a real shock," said Colby before the reversal.

She noted that the event has taken place for five years, weathering the transition to the Bush administration. Last year Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson, the second in command at DOJ, addressed about 150 people at the Pride event.

The story on the ban first appeared in the *New York Times* on June 6. It prompted Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-New Jersey) to send a letter to Ashcroft inquiring of the decision and reminding him of testimony at his confirmation hearing when Ashcroft said, "I would not tolerate discrimination against any employee at the Department of Justice based on sexual preference."

The White House backed the department's initial decision.

"The president believes everybody ought to be treated with dignity and respect, but he does not believe we should be politicizing people's sexual orientation," said spokesman Scott McClellan on Monday, June 9.

"The inequality with which federal employees are now being treated is quite extraordinary," said Leonard Hirsch, president of Federal GLOBE, the broader association of federal GLBT employees. "It appears to be driven much more by the personal beliefs of the senior administrator in the department" than by government policy.

Hirsch found it ironic that "an administration that says that they are supposed to take the best from the private sector turns its back on its own employees," even while the private sector increasingly is embracing gay-friendly policies. ▼

## PipeVine scandal

◀ previous page

Cycle event that benefits SFAF and the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. "It's on a lot of people's radar and we'll go from there."

Out and Equal Advocates, an organization that advocates for the LGBT community in the workplace, is a "strategic partner" of UWBA. Executive Director Selisse Berry told the B.A.R. that as a strategic partner, Out and Equal received seed money from UWBA and office space. Out and Equal will become a separate 501 (c)(3) nonprofit effective July 1, Berry said.

During a telephone interview, Berry declined to disclose Out and Equal's annual budget and did not

say how much money the group receives from UWBA.

While Berry initially said the PipeVine fallout "will not affect us, because United Way and PipeVine are separate," she later acknowledged that Out and Equal did receive funds through workplace giving programs that were likely handled by PipeVine.

"I don't anticipate any fallout," Berry said. "United Way has committed to compensate nonprofits."

Horizons Foundation, which is a philanthropic organization serving the LGBT community, is also a strategic partner of UWBA. Executive Director Roger Doughty told the B.A.R. on Monday, June 9 that he, too, has confidence in UWBA's ability to make up any lost revenue his agency should receive due to the PipeVine scandal.

Horizons' annual budget is \$2 million, Doughty said. While the agency doesn't actively promote workplace giving, as others do, Doughty said Horizons does go to employers to make presentations in support of workplace giving and UWBA's strategic partners.

"Most encouraging is that United Way appears to be doing everything it can to a) reassure contributors, and b) make sure donations made through PipeVine are honored," Doughty said.

UWBA has set up a toll-free number for donors to check the status of their gifts. That number is 800-273-1779. Additional information is available at [www.uwba.org](http://www.uwba.org). ▼



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**TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Positive Force Offices | 539 Castro Street (18th/19th)**

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**THURSDAY | 1 - 3pm | Castro Country Club | 4058 18th Street (Castro/Hartford)**

**special event > unwrapping the gift | June 21**

Join us to screen *The Gift*, a controversial new documentary presented by Frameline at the 27th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Then stick around for a discussion about barebacking and bug-chasing, moderated by the STOP AIDS Project, with panelists including filmmaker Louise Hogarth and community members. (Please purchase tickets in advance at [www.frameline.org](http://www.frameline.org).)

**SATURDAY | 2:30pm | Castro Theatre | 429 Castro Street (at Market Street)**

**positive space > h café | June 25**

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## AIDS office

◀ page 1

and it is unclear if it will be renewed. Also, with Brown leaving office in early January, the office's future will be determined by the next mayor.

In the meantime, Shriver's extended leave has prompted some to question the validity and need of having such an office at City Hall. AIDS activist Michael Petrelis has called on the supervisors to investigate the office and for the mayor to justify his funding the position.

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* Friday, June 6, Shriver said he has every intention of returning to the job. But due to his continuing health problems, he could not be certain when he will return to work.

"I am out on disability and that has to be respected," said Shriver, who has also taken a leave as co-director of the AIDS Policy Research Center at UCSE. "I don't owe anything other than that. I will be back to work when my doctor gives me the okay."

While he's been out, Shriver said he has been checking his voicemail and e-mail to ensure messages are forwarded to the appropriate people. And via the Internet, he is able to stay abreast of the continuing dialogue on AIDS and HIV.

Although he would not comment on why no one has been appointed to fill his position on a temporary basis, Shriver did say that he never expected to be gone

this long from the job. When he informed Brown nearly two years ago of his decision, Shriver said, "The mayor's comment was, when I am better the job is there for me."

Brown's spokesman, P.J. Johnston, said that no one has been named to replace Shriver because "the mayor for one doesn't fire people while they are out on disability leave."

Secondly, Johnston said the mayor fully expects Shriver to return to work.

"The work in Michael's office has largely been picked up in the interim by other employees with an expectation that Michael would hopefully be able to return to work soon and pick up where he has started," Johnston told the *B.A.R.* "Certainly Mike is missed in his position and the mayor hopes he is able to return to work."

Brown created the office in January 1998 and appointed the late Dick Pabich to the position. Also that month the mayor held a summit on HIV and AIDS and Pabich set out to implement the recommendations that stemmed from the meeting. Pabich left the job later that year, and his trainee, Bill Barnes, took over until 2000. Barnes is now an aide to Supervisor Chris Daly.

"From Mayor Brown's perspective it has been invaluable, from a policy perspective and from the perspective of maintaining an ardent commitment to the issue, to have Michael and, before him his predecessors, in that position," said Johnston.

The position is responsible for everything from identifying budgetary requirements and sources of funding for the mayor's AIDS initiatives to monitoring the work of the public health department and city-funded agencies that provide AIDS services.

The AIDS czar also oversees the staffing of the Mayor's HIV Scientific Advisory Committee and serves as the mayor's liaison to both the HIV Prevention and the Health Services planning councils.

According to the office's Web page, beginning in spring 2002 the AIDS czar would issue quarterly reports "on legislative, budget, programmatic, and policy activities that are germane to HIV prevention, care, treatment, research, housing, and other ancillary services in San Francisco." Those reports have never been generated due to Shriver's absence.

Some in the AIDS community say there is concern about the position going unfilled and that, in Shriver's absence, there has been a lessening of involvement on the part of the mayor's office in regard to AIDS. Some point to the recent forum on HIV and speed use, called by freshman Supervisor Bevan Dufty, as an example of an issue that has gone unaddressed.

And the absence of Shriver, a nationally respected AIDS advocate, policy expert, and longtime activist, has implications for the AIDS community beyond just San Francisco. The policies adopted by the city are routinely implemented and duplicated by AIDS agencies throughout the country.

"People have looked at us forever as the city to follow and what you do next. It is wonderful the position is being held for Michael. But you still have to have someone present," said former supervisor and mayoral candidate Angela Alioto, who tapped Shriver as her representative to an AIDS task force while she was in City Hall. "Michael would be the first one to say the job needs to be getting done."

The AIDS czar vacancy also comes at a time when the Republican-controlled administration in Washington is exacting a toll on everything from AIDS research and HIV prevention guidelines to

funding levels and, some say, unwarranted scrutiny of agencies like the Stop AIDS Project.

As a former executive director of such groups as Mobilization Against AIDS and the National Association of People With AIDS, Shriver has extensive experience lobbying in Congress and that experience has been missed.

"Mike is brilliant," said city health director Dr. Mitch Katz. "He has done fantastic work for San Francisco on a number of advocacy and programmatic fronts. We've missed his energy."

In years past, AIDS agencies have relied on the AIDS czar to help them petition the supervisors to add back funding to their programs. With his four years on the city Health Commission, two of which serving as chair of the budget committee, Shriver was an invaluable ally for agencies trying to navigate the city's budgetary and political waters.

"He's been an ardent, passionate, incredibly well-informed advocate all these years. We miss him in that role," said the executive director of Project Open Hand, Tom Nolan, whose agency turned to Shriver for help when it was facing budgetary problems back in 2000. "He was just so helpful through so much of our problems over the last several years. I would say now more than ever there is a need for that office."

This year the mayor's budget calls for several million dollars worth of cuts in AIDS and HIV programs, and other programs are scrambling to find private, local, and state funding to make up for federal funding cuts.

At no other time has the need for an AIDS czar, especially one with Shriver's experience, knowledge and contacts, been more acute.

"HIV funding is very much political in San Francisco. We need somebody to have the political will to muster that. It takes political savvy and an astute person to be able to navigate the political waters of HIV and AIDS, both HIV prevention and AIDS funding and care," said Steve Gibson, the director of a new health center for gay men opening in the Castro next month.

The center, called Magnet, owes its funding to Shriver's advocacy efforts. In 2000, Shriver convinced the mayor to match a challenge grant from DuPont Pharmaceuticals, which is now owned by Bristol-Myers Squibb. Along with Magnet, those funds have paid for several HIV initiatives.

"The position has been very helpful in getting additional federal monies to San Francisco for HIV prevention," added Gibson.

While most AIDS agencies now deal directly with the health department regarding issues and funding, they maintain there is still a need to have someone independent of the department to call on from time to time.

"It is incredibly important certainly in San Francisco that the mayor's office has an active liaison to the AIDS community," said Shana Krochmal, spokeswoman for the Stop AIDS Project. "While DPH has strong programs and is responsive to the community, it is important both individual people with HIV and agencies that work with AIDS have a more direct line of communication to the mayor."

Johnston said in spite of Shriver's absence, the mayor has continued to be committed to dealing with HIV and AIDS issues as well as maintaining as much funding as possible during tough economic times.

"I think this administration would stack up better against any other city and any previous administration in its energy and efforts on behalf of people with AIDS and HIV," he said. ▼

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Skipper at his side. Gregory is also survived by his brother Jeffery of San Diego, Calif. And numerous other relatives and friends.

He was blessed with a very peaceful and painless passing when the Lord came to call him home. He was blessed, especially during his battle with many dear close friends and relatives who were at his side.

Greg was born in San Francisco, raised in Saratoga and Almaden. He and his partner made their homes in Sausalito and Rio Nido, Calif. Greg was the long-time owner of Greg's of Larkspur, a landmark barbershop in historic downtown Larkspur.

He succumbed after a valiant battle against Hodgkin's Lymphoma since January.

A Memorial service will be held at their home 15316 Mt. Jackson Trail, Rio Nido, Calif. at Noon on Sunday June 22nd. Contact Gene Tygielski at (415) 601-9104 or sfgene@aol.com for further information.

Contributions can be made in his name to Face to Face, 873 Second St., Santa Rosa, CA 95494, or to the Marin Humane Society, 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd., Novato, CA 94949.

Arrangements under the direction of Abby Chapel Of The Redwoods Mortuary, 6250 State Farm Dr., Rohnert Park, CA; (707) 584-7100. To send an online condolence go to [abbiymortuary.com](http://abbiymortuary.com) and click obit.

Rob Lenderink

Robertus H. Lenderink, "Rob," 39 years of age, passed away peacefully at Davies Medical Center on June 3, 2003 after a long battle with AIDS. He was surrounded by his sisters Annet and Margot Lenderink, his brother-in-law Henk Koopman, his niece Birgit Koop-

man and his beloved friends Larry Shockey, Reggie Snowden, Pamela Klein, and June Graham.

He was preceded in death by his partner and love of his life, Lefe H. Fowler, and survived by an amazingly large group of family, friends and colleagues.

Rob lived in San Francisco for more than 12 years, but was born and raised in Assen, the Netherlands, son of Gerrit and Riky Lenderink. He studied to be a physical therapist and started to work in the inpatient department of Davies Medical Center in 1989. Although he came home to the Netherlands in the mid-nineties, he decided to return to San Francisco.

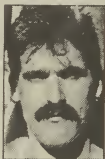
With his warm, caring and outgoing personality he gathered friends around him from all over the world. He loved nature and gardening, traveled a lot, had a profound interest in European sports, developed a broad taste in music, and was always looking for good coffee and a nice chat. He was one of a kind and the impact he had on family, friends and colleagues will be in our hearts forever.

Our special thanks to the staff of Davies Medical Center for their good and personal care.

A celebration and memorial service will commence at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 14, 2003 at Arthur J. Sullivan's & Co. Funeral Home, 2254 Market St., San Francisco. For further information call 415-621-4567. You may join us to celebrate Rob's life from 1 p.m. Rob was an avid lover of flowers. At the family's request, flower arrangements may be made through Touch Touch flower shop at 1550 California St., San Francisco (415-673-4021).

Todd Myers

October 21, 1962 — June 8, 2002



the angels. Todd will be missed by family and friends alike. He loved music,

Todd left us Saturday, June 8, 2002 after a long and painful battle with KS. His mother Charlene, Stepdad Wally and friends Steven and Kelly Sue were at his side as he left this earth to join

movies and theatre and living life to the fullest. He lives in the hearts and minds of us all. We would like to thank Ward 5A, Dr. Brad Hare, Hospice by the Bay, and Maitri for caring for him in a wonderful way although he could be a very difficult patient when not feeling well. I was blessed to have Todd as a friend.

Donations in Todd's memory to Maitri Compassionate Care or AIDS Emergency Fund.

Bye my sweet Toddamus. — Steven

H. Lee Sandy III

May 20, 1949 — June 2, 2003



Lee left us suddenly and unexpectedly at home on Monday, June 2.

Lee is survived by his partner of fourteen years, Bill Braznell of San Francisco; mother, Geraldine Seum of Doylestown, PA; fa-

ther Harry Sandy of Largo, FL; siblings Kathy and Cliff, and beloved youngest sister Sloane of San Francisco.

Raised in Levittown, PA, Lee found his true home in San Francisco in the late seventies. In thrall of music, people and the freedoms of the times, Lee worked and lived enthusiastically as part of the city's alternative nightlife of the eighties, remembering most fondly his part in the Stud's glory days, where many of his most lasting friendships were formed. In the early nineties Lee set off on a new course, finding satisfaction in a new career in commercial banking and taking deep pleasure in home, neighborhood, and frequent escapes to sunny places.

Lee loved the casual friendships that colored his history here and made this his home. He wanted, always, the tone to be easy and familiar. He would never impose on you with worry or sorrow, but his offer of easy company came from his love of community and belonging.

Lee will be remembered for the unflinching honesty and loyalty that bound him to his loved ones. Cautionary, protective, and reserved, Lee often betrayed the inner softy, and devotion ran deep on all sides. Lee's presence in our lives was bold and lively.

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# Screen sweat

by Jim Provenzano

**B**efore diving into the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival's many offerings, a few of which explore the world of gays and lesbians in athletics, be sure to catch *Bend It Like Beckham*, if only for comparative interest.

Audiences in Europe have already acclaimed the affable story of a tomboy Indian girl in London who has to sneak out to play soccer.

Jess (Parminder Nagra), her room decorated in posters of soc-

cer star David Beckham, longs to play soccer, while her Sikh family enforces a traditional feminine role as her sister's wedding approaches.

While an amusing story, the soccer sequences are jump-cut in the style of Gatorade commercials, leaving the more relaxed park sequences to show that Jess can really play. While the music for each sequence is great, its MTV hyperactivity seems overdone.

With her supermodel pouting, Juliette (Keira Knightley) occasionally irks, but cheerfully coaxes Jess into secretly practicing and competing with the local women's team, coached by the lithe Jonathan Reys Meyers.

Jess's family life is shown in richer depth as a comic example of culture clash. Soccer pal Juliette's dad supports athletics, but Mum's a bit miffed.

The parental freak-out sequences when the two girls are mistaken as lesbian lovers lurch the film into farce, particularly Juliet Stevenson as Juliette's Mum. Think *Keeping Up Appearances* as done by Dame Edna.

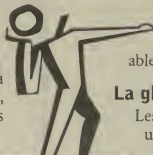
The team of obviously accomplished athletes are given too few lines to offer more possibly lesbian characters, but the park soccer scenes with the boys soon find a minor gay character, the hunky Tony (Ameeth Chana).

Director Gurinder Chadha's inspiring tale and sometimes over-the-top plot devices repeat a few too many times (perhaps as a take on Bollywood style; a few scenes of

which are shown on Jess's home TV). This style builds to a whirling wedding/final match montage.

And while the irony of British women dreaming of moving to California to make their soccer dreams come true may ring odd (or laughable to local audiences when "Santa Clara, California!" is portrayed as a distant soccer Valhalla),

*Bend It Like Beckham* inspires, if not overwhelms, with amiable affection.



## La gl ce act

Less ennui-laden, yet still utterly French in its subtlety, *My Life on Ice* (Ma vraie vie   Rouen) follows a young figure skater through several months of his life,

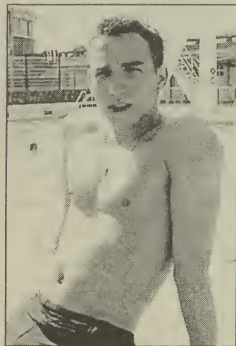
through his own eyes.

Framed as a self-made documentary, Etienne (played with somber grace by the utterly gorgeous Jimmy Tavares) makes a journal of his days, including some practice shots on the rink. Tavares is an accomplished skater, and this gives the film even more authenticity.

Tavares stumbles through attempting a triple, but his skills and practices are shown in an amusing array of shots. His hilarious attempt at a "jet   en l'air avec camera" nearly brings the film to an abrupt halt.

What's fascinating is seeing how Etienne's videographic obsession alters his friends' and family's life in gradual ways, and displays his longing.

Directors Olivier Ducastel and



Frederic Blument

Skater's figure: Jimmy Tavares in *My Life on Ice*

Jacques Martineau (*Adventures of Felix*) deftly blend narrative with a simple and beautiful array of shots.

Unlike *Bend It Like Beckham*'s hyped up sports scenes, Ducastel and Martineau's cinematic approach allows the drama of competition to unfold along with the athlete's personal life. Etienne's lone figure on the ice displays the tension and hope of both competitor and his supportive family. (June 21, 8 p.m., Castro Theatre.)

## Swim fan

The San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival offers a few more serious, and actually gay and lesbian, takes on sports.

In Fabrice Cazeneuve's *You'll Get Over It*, Vincent (Julian Baumgartner) wins a relay with his swim teammates early on. Their locker room antics provide a set-up for some raucous homophobic banter.

Vincent's brother, a strutting boxer, feels passed over for his younger brother's swimming success.

Enter campus cool dude Benjamin (Jeremie Elkaim in *Wild Reeds*), whose interaction with Vincent brings his life to an abrupt outing to many. It changes his status on the swim team, and he's refused entry to the locker room.

Fortunately, his best pal sticks by his side, when most others deride him. Vincent's coach chides him to fight back and refuse to quit. "Then they've won. You have to show them that you can win at an event."

That his coach trains him alone, allowing the team to enjoy their segregation, is odd. Vincent does get a vindication in a later swimming victory.

Eventually, as others get over Vincent's sexuality, the last, and most important, to do so seems to be himself. (June 27, 1:30 p.m., and June 28, 6 p.m., both at the Castro Theatre.)

## Boxer rebellion

Other movies with sports

themes include *Cock and Bull Story*, (or *Southside*, as it's called in its trailer).

Based on the Richard Crowe and Richard Zaidlic play, Billy Hayes (of *Midnight Express* fame) wrote and directed this dark macho potboiler film adaptation.

Brian Austin Green (of *Beverly Hills 90210* fame) is geared up as a tormented former boxer. His friend Travis (Bret Roberts) excels in attempting to leave his low class life through boxing, and ignore his unusual in-the-ring fetish. Guys in silk shorts + homophobia = pugilistic panic. (June 20 10:30 p.m., and June 23, 1 p.m., both at the Castro Theatre.)

A *Bizarre Love Triangle* follows the convoluted romantic entanglements of two women who meet at taekwon do practice, and then use it as a ruse for their affair. A few scenes show a match and practices, but more of the film is about one of the women's unhappy life with her husband, a TV celebrity. Lee Moo-Young directs this odd Korean farce, in which the women prove that martial arts can be a helpful, if not dangerous weapon, on the street. (June 23, 9 p.m., Herbst Theatre, and June 26, 4 p.m., Castro Theatre.)

From Taiwan, *Blue Gate Crossing* includes a swimming pool as a meeting place for a pair of tomboy lesbians and their path toward love. (June 14, 6 p.m., Castro Theatre.)

## Short shorts

*Late Night Visitor*, one of several shorts in the Boys Got Spunk series, delves into the muscle-bound past of Bob Mizer body-builders and wrestlers. (June 25, 9 p.m., Herbst Theatre.)

*We Got Next*, a romance of women basketball players, is part of Do Your Thang, an afternoon of women's short films. (June 15, noon, Castro Theatre.)

The always popular Fun in Boys' shorts series includes *Short, White and Pleated*, a whimsical take on how a skirt improves a squash player's technique. (June 14, 11 a.m., Castro Theatre.)

And in possibly the strangest of sports cameos, Mexican pro wrestler Santos comes to the aid of *Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter* in his quest to vanquish a herd of blood-sucking lesbians. (June 14, 10:15 p.m., and June 16, 2 p.m., both at the Castro Theatre.) ▼

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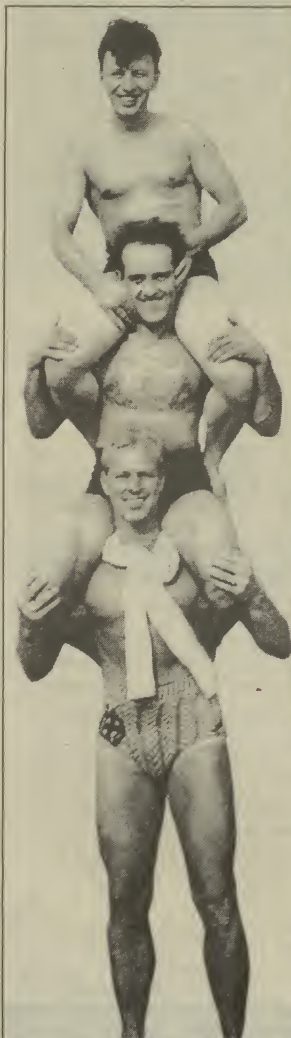
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6:00 - 7:30pm	Power Flow	All levels
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### SATURDAY:

9:00 - 10:30am	Hatha Flow	Beginners
11:00 - 12:30pm	Hatha Flow	All levels

### SUNDAY:

9:00 - 10:40am	PowerFlow	Level 2/3
11:00 - 12:40pm	Power Flow	Level 2/3
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# CLASSIFIEDS

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL AGENCY F ORMATION COMMISSION (SFLAFCO)

is scheduled to hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 20, 2003, in the Legislative Chambers, Room 250, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place on the R. W. Beck Report on Community Aggregation (AB117) Midget.

#### SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

#### WIC Program

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bimonthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 575-5788.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS - INVITATION FOR BIDS

Due 5 pm June 17. Request for proposals for Direct Mail Services for the City and County of San Francisco. Department of Elections Voter Information Pamphlet and other Election Related Materials. Bids available in Room 48, City Hall. Pre-bid conference June 11, 2003 2:00 pm in City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl. Rm 48. (415) 554-4375.

#### SAN FRANCISCO ART COMMISSION GALLERY

2003 Murphy Fellowships Award Exhibition. Dates: July 16 - August 30, 2003

Reception: Wednesday, July 16, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Artists:	Scott Boswell	Sung Hong Min	Gilles-Fleur Bourry
	Jason Mortara	Keifer Calkins	Shawn O'Dell
	Shannon Castleman	Julia Page	Alice Carraneo
	Michael Rich	David Dennick	Seokhan Ryu
	Mayumi Hamanaka	Shirley Shor	Chie Ishida
	Bo-Wook Son	Katherine Johnstone	Kirk Stoller
	Robert Lawless	Tim Sullivan	Anna Maltz
	Jackie Sumell	Naomi Miller	

The Murphy Fellowships in the Fine Arts are annual awards sponsored by The San Francisco Foundation to assist students in funding their final year of graduate studies. In partnership with the Foundation, the Arts Commission Gallery is committed to showcasing works by outstanding Bay Area students through the Murphy Fellowship exhibitions. The twenty-three award recipients attend the California College of Arts and Crafts, Mills College, the San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco State University, Stanford University, and the University of California at Berkeley. Jurors for the 2003 awards were Clara Kim, Curatorial Associate, SFMOMA; Stephanie Syjuco, artist; and Timothy Taylor, Curator, San Francisco Airport Museum. Media represented in the show includes film and video, painting, photography, sculpture and installation.

Location: San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness Avenue (ground floor, at McAllister) San Francisco, CA 94102

Hours: Wednesday - Saturday, 11-5:30. Tuesday by appointment. Always free.

Photos Available Upon Request

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF SEAN ADRIEN "LEW".

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03540740

In the Matter of the Application of Sean Adrién "Lew". For change of Name. The

applicant of Sean Adrién "Lew" for

change of name, having been filed in Court,

and it appearing from said application that

Sean Adrién "Lew" has filed an application

proposing that his/her name be changed to -

Sean Adrién "Pettit". Now therefore, it is

herby ordered and directed, that all

persons interested in said matter do appear

before this Court in Department 218 on the

17 day of July at 9:00am., of said day to

show cause why the application for change

of name should not be granted.

MAY 21, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0266926-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Boboquivari's The Steak. 1450 Lombard

Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This

business is conducted by a limited liability

company signed Jerry Dal Bozzo, president.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact

business under the above listed fictitious

business name or names on N/A. The

statement was filed with the City and

County of San Francisco, Ca. on

05/15/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0266196-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: East-West Integrative Medicine Clinic.

605 Chenery Street, Suite C, San Francisco,

Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an

individual signed Mamie Rachele McCurdy.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact

business under the above listed fictitious

business name or names on April 18, 2003.

The statement was filed with the City and

County of San Francisco, Ca. on

04/18/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0266993-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Tower Electric Company, 3467 17th

Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94141. This

business is conducted by an individual

signed Mark Musumeci. The registrant(s)

commenced to transact business under the

above listed fictitious business name or

names on March 17, 1994. The statement

was filed with the City and County of San

Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0266943-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Blue Corner, Inc. 175 Bluxome Street

#129, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This

business is conducted by a corporation

signed Kelly McKean Schreimuller,

president. The registrant(s) commenced to

transact business under the above listed

fictitious business name or names on N/A.

The statement was filed with the City and

County of San Francisco, Ca. on

05/15/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0267020-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: New Cheung Hing Restaurant, 1936

Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122.

This business is conducted by an individual

signed Xiao Ling Meng. The registrant(s)

commenced to transact business under the

above listed fictitious business name or

names on May 01, 2003. The statement

was filed with the City and County of San

Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN

FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-

540742

In the Matter of the Application of Stephen

Andreas Charles. For change of Name. The

applicant of Stephen Andreas Charles for

change of name, having been filed in Court,

and it appearing from said application that

Stephen Andreas Charles has filed an

application proposing that his/her name be

changed to Cosmo Creek. Now therefore, it

is hereby ordered and directed, that all

persons interested in said matter do appear

before this Court in Department 218 on the

15 day of July at 9:00am., of said day to

show cause why the application for change

of name should not be granted.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 253075

The following person (persons) have

abandoned the use of the fictitious business

name known as: New Cheung Hing

Restaurant. Located at: 1936 Irving Street,

San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business

was conducted by a Husband and wife

signed Kin Bun Lam and Dina Lam. The

fictitious name referred to above was filed

in the County of San Francisco on:

November 16, 2001.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0266991-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Dream Away Publishing, 1592 Stillwell

Rd. Apt. B, San Francisco, Ca. 94129. This

business is conducted by an individual

signed Orin C. Carpenter. The registrant(s)

commenced to transact business under the

above listed fictitious business name or

names on May 19, 2003. The statement

was filed with the City and County of San

Francisco, Ca. on 05/19/2003.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0266906-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Club La Cantina Productions, 891 Post

Street #402, San Francisco, Ca. 94109.

This business is conducted by an individual

signed Daniel Flores Gonzalez. The

registrant(s) commenced to transact

business under the above listed fictitious

business name or names on May 14, 2003.

The statement was filed with the City and

County of San Francisco, Ca. on

05/14/2003.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

#### STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 257805

The following person (persons) have

abandoned the use of the fictitious business

name known as: Kidlat Productions.

Located at: 46- Sixth Street, San

Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business was

conducted by an individual signed Isidro M.

Nova. The fictitious name referred to above

was filed in the County of San Francisco on:

May 17, 2002.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the

Applicant(s) is: International Noodle House

Inc. The applicants listed above are applying

to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages

Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600

San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic

beverages at: 690 Van Ness Avenue, San

Francisco, Ca. 94102. Type of license Applied

for:

47-ON SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND

FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN

FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC-03-

540731

In the Matter of the Application of Diana

Rosenthal. For change of Name. The

applicant of Diana Rosenthal for change

of name, having been filed in Court, and it

appearing from said application that Diana

Rosenthal has filed an application

proposing that his/her name be changed to

Diana Alexandra Rosenthal. Now therefore,

it is hereby ordered and directed, that all

persons interested in said matter do appear

before this Court in Department 218 on the

10th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to

show cause why the application for change

of name should not be granted.

MAY 29, JUNE 5, 12, 19, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0267191-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Keith Meinhold And Associates. 66

Marston Avenue, San Francisco, Ca.

94132. This business is conducted by an

individual signed V. Keith Meinhold. The

registrant(s) commenced to transact

business under the above listed fictitious

business name or names on N/A. The

statement was filed with the City and

County of San Francisco, Ca. on

05/15/2003.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### STATEMENT FILE 0267065-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: H&A Tours. 601 Folsom Street, San

Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is

conducted by a husband and wife signed

Hormoz Defaei Jolani and Agustina Genilla

Carter. The registrant(s) commenced to

transact business under the above listed

fictitious business name or names on N/A.

The statement was filed with the City and

County of San Francisco, Ca. on

05/21/2003.

JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26, 2003

#### STATEMENT FILE 0267252-00

The following person(s) are doing business

as: Crab House At Pier 39. 203 C. Pier 39,

San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is

conducted by a corporation signed Jerry Dal

Bozzo. The registrant(s) commenced to



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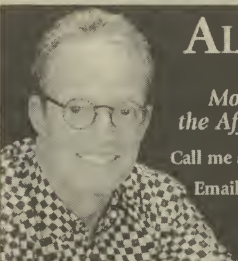


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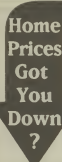
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E24

## JOBS OFFERED

## Job Openings TARC Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center

Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC) works with the community we serve to meet the HIV/AIDS prevention and care needs of the diverse residents of the Tenderloin. By applying principles of harm reduction through non-judgmental outreach, education, testing, client advocacy and practical direct services, TARC aims to lessen the incidence of HIV infection, disease progression and homelessness while respecting both the individuals we serve and the diversity of the Tenderloin community.

TARC needs qualified candidates to assist us in growing to meet our clients' needs.

## Community Center Support

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$28,000 - 33,000 annually, depending on experience  
Tenderloin residents come to the community center to receive many TARC services, including peer advocacy, treatment information, breakfast, drop-in movies, syringe exchange, support groups, and volunteer opportunities. The community center serves as an outreach channel for TARC programs. In addition, the volunteer opportunities directly involve community members in agency operations. This is a critical element in the way TARC practices harm reduction principles.

The role of the volunteer ranges from supporting the community center to supporting office and program administration. The Community Center Support staff person works closely with the Community Center Coordinator to support the volunteer program and the community center. Willingness to work some evenings and weekends, requires daily start-time of 8:00am.

Responsibilities include community center support, volunteer coordination and support, and client activities coordination. Position requires at least 2 years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience in office clerical support.

## Executive Assistant

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$35,000 - 40,000 annually, depending on experience  
The ideal candidate for this position will possess excellent verbal, written organizational, and analytical skills and a commitment to making our community a better place. Support to the Executive Director will be a key component of the position. Ability to work with other top-level management and deal with the public required. The Executive Assistant will perform a variety of administrative duties with the Executive Director (ED) regarding details of the agency and executive business matters. This person will be exposed to all aspects of running the organization and have an opportunity to have a high impact on the agency. The position will also provide support in maintaining meeting minutes and logistics for the Board of Directors.

## Health Educator

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$35,000 - 33,000 annually, depending on experience  
This position requires skills in developing and facilitating HIV/AIDS prevention education and related health workshops, performing street based outreach and providing HIV antibody testing and counseling for members of the Tenderloin Community in San Francisco.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate skills in conducting individual level HIV/AIDS prevention education sessions; knowledge of HIV/AIDS and related issues; knowledge of substance use and mental health issues; a minimum of 3 years of experience working with diverse communities/populations.

## Program Assistant

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$28,000 - 32,000 annually, depending on experience  
The Program Assistant provides administrative support to program directors and agency managers in operating systems to ensure timely reporting and documentation of client services and in maintaining the facilities to ensure client and staff safety and cultural competency and ADA compliance. The program assistant also provides backup coverage for reception. Willingness to work evenings and weekends is required. Position requires at least a Bachelors' degree and 2 years experience or equivalent combination of training and experience in office clerical support.

## Transgender Health Educator

Regular, full-time (40 hours per week) - non-exempt

\$30,000 - 33,000 annually, depending on experience  
The health promotion program focuses on the disease prevention aspect of TARC's mission. The transgender health educator specializes more specifically on the health promotion in the transgender community of the Tenderloin neighborhood. Responsibilities include outreach, group facilitation, client advocacy, documentation.

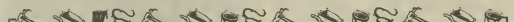
The position requires skills in developing and facilitating HIV/AIDS prevention education and related health workshops, performing street and community based outreach and providing HIV antibody testing and counseling for members of the Tenderloin neighborhood in San Francisco.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate skills in conducting individual level HIV/AIDS prevention education; knowledge of HIV/AIDS and related issues; knowledge of substance use and mental health issues; a minimum of 3 years of experience working with diverse communities/populations; willingness to work evenings and weekends.

TARC is an equal opportunity employer committed to maintaining a culturally diverse work environment that reflects the make-up of the Tenderloin community. People with diverse personal experiences are urged to apply, especially people living with HIV, people of color, bi-lingual English-Spanish speakers, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, women, young people and residents of the Tenderloin neighborhood.

Additional bilingual English/Spanish differential is offered on most salaries.

For details of the job postings, go to [www.tarc.org](http://www.tarc.org)  
Please send your required cover letter and resume to Lawrence LI. E-mail to [resumes2@tarc.org](mailto:resumes2@tarc.org) is preferred. Fax: 415.751.9641

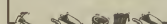


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E18

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**Picked pack of peckers**  
We continue our furtive  
search for penis in films.  
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**Short but sweet**  
Fun in boys', girls', others' short  
films in Lesbian & Gay Film Fest.  
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**The operatics of Ggreg Taylor**  
'Forgotten Opera' costume party  
in SoMa, thanks to SF Opera.  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 24 • 12 June 2003

## Frameline fest does it again

Highlights from 27th SF Int'l Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, week 1



Scenes from *Yossi & Jagger*, left, and *The Mudge Boy*

by David Lamble

**F**orthwith, nine recommended features from the first week's offerings of the 27th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (June 12-29).

**Yossi & Jagger** On a barren outpost along Israel's contested border with Lebanon, two Israeli soldiers have had a roll in the snow. Yossi and Jagger's post-coital chat breaks the rules by posing a future for their relationship, a future without rank or the structure of guard duty.

"Yossi, would you stay with me if I lost a leg or got all burnt up, *English Patient*-style?" asks Jagger.

"With or without eye-lashes?" asks Yossi.

Eytan Fox, the American-born, Israeli-raised writer/director, has produced a kind of sequel to his short film *Time Off* (1990), in which an Israeli army officer is shown having a furtive sexual liaison with a young private. *Yossi & Jagger* presents a cross-section of Israeli society in which all types of persons are represented: the macho commanding officer who insists on sending his overworked unit out for a "hot ambush" of enemy soldiers; the jealous, insecure straight guy; the sensitive damsel with fag-hag tendencies; the brash vixen with party-girl tendencies; and the funny kitchen-tyrant whose T-shirt reads, "Don't Fuck with the Cook."

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Documentaries at 27th SF Int'l Lesbian & Gay Film Fest, week 1

## Welcome to real life

by Gary Morris

**W**ith television practically asphyxiated by ancient sitcoms, brainless Reality TV, doctored-to-death news, lifestyle schmaltz, and other dubious cultural forms, and mainstream movies awash in action sludge and feel-good pap, festivals like the 27th SFILGFF become increasingly important. While the quality of the features each year tends to vary, sometimes dramatically, the documentaries usually hit a pretty high mark. This year is no exception, with excellent work appearing in the first half of the fest on such timely subjects as homo teen travails, Internet porn addiction, Gore Vidal, and dildos.

If Melissa Levin and Roxana Spicer's *Class Queens* (Castro Theatre, 6/17) and Cecilia Neant-Falk's *Don't You Worry, It Will Probably Pass* (Castro, 6/18) are any indication, the situation for queer youth re-

mains dicey. The same crushing forces seen decades ago are still evident: homophobic parents and peers, small-town prejudice, vicious religion. The difference is that today's kids seem stronger and more stubborn than ever, and have more options. They know they don't have to accept the status quo, and many of them don't. In *Don't You Worry*, three teenage lesbians tell moving stories about the terrors of trying to come out — or being forced to stay in the closet, at least for a while — and the difficult but rewarding trek out of those towns into the welcoming queer enclaves of the big city. In *Class Queens*, dynamo dyke Adina overcomes her rabbi father's bigotry through sheer force of personality and insistence of living authentically.

Far from the prole pleasures of those films is Deborah Dickson's *The Education*

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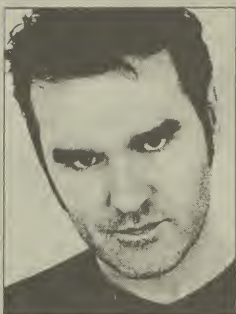
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## This charming man

Strings do Smiths, UK press does Moz

by Roberto Friedman

Because Out There has made certain conjectures in print about rock star Morrissey's chances of cutting an album this year, based upon LA sightings of him lunching with certain key record-company figures, we're constantly badgered with requests from fans for updates. To which we can only reply with a favorite Moz expression, "Bejaysus, we know fock-all, so bugger off, then!"



Acknowledging the homoerotic: Moz

Briefly, the facts are that his last record company dumped the Moz after one album (*Maladjusted*) out of a four-record contract. Though he easily has an album's worth of new songs ready to go (lucky Mozphiles heard some of it on his double bill with the Jaguares last fall), all tomorrow's recording parties are booked — without him.

A new documentary for Britain's Channel 4, *The Importance of Being Morrissey*, has re-stoked interest. Author Mark Simpson, whose *Saint Morrissey* will be published in the UK later this year, reports for the UK *Guardian* that fans including JK Rowling, Chrissie Hynde, Will Self and Noel Gallagher were eager to lavish praise and affection on the Moz in the doc.

Simpson shows how Morrissey's "preoccupation with gang-

sters, boxers and 'low-life' prefigured *New Lad* — albeit artistic and passionate, where what followed was cynical and commercial, and with the balls to acknowledge rather than disavow the aesthetic and homoerotic."

Simpson also claims that M's fans "are mostly male, overwhelmingly heterosexual, and all are passionately, vehemently in love with him, wrestling beefy security personnel to the floor to hug and kiss him onstage. 'I'd sleep with him if he asked me to,' a hod carrier from Norwich once volunteered to me at a Moz gig, out of the blue. 'My girl-friend would understand,' he added. 'She's a Morrissey fan, too.' Of course she would."

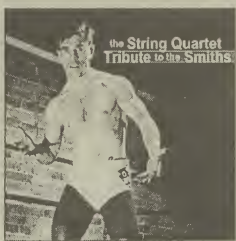
Meantime, in the *Sunday Observer*, Lynn Barber explains the mystery of Morrissey's missing record deal by quoting him on the subject: "All the labels in America have said: 'Will your music fit in with what is successful in the American charts?' To which I reply: 'Bejaysus, I hope it doesn't! And then I'm out on the street immediately.'"

He's lived off Sunset Blvd. in LA for four years now. His house was built by Clark Gable for Carole Lombard. When Barber asks "if he lives next door to Johnny Depp, as the press always says, he corrects me, 'No, he lives next door to me.'"

Finally, in her most amusing catalog of all things Smithian for the *Guardian*, Zoe Williams dredges up the old *scandale* which ensued "when [M] suggested openly, and in a number of songs, that [then-British PM] Margaret Thatcher should be assassinated. After the-Brighton bombing, a tabloid journalist asked him how he'd feel now if a Smiths fan shot the Iron Lady. 'Well, I'd obviously marry that person,' he replied with aplomb."

## Haul us in

We've obviously been trolling the British press for Moz mentions, but not without good cause. A new CD, *The String Quartet Tribute to The Smiths* (Vitamin),



recasts those old Smiths songs ("Last Night I Dreamt That Somebody Loved Me") into rhapsodies for strings, and the amazing thing is that the gambit works. Crooner's standards like "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now" retain their melodic charm without devolving into maudlin morass. We always knew "This Charming Man" or "That Joke Isn't Funny Anymore" would work on violin, but the revelation is that "Some Girls Are Bigger than Others" does, too.

Not incidentally, the record company (quaint anachronism that it is!) did the right thing by devoting the CD cover to one of those anonymous, handsome stars

of boxing or lad's clubs that Smiths LPs and singles (doubly quaint!) regularly featured. This one appears to be a wrestler, he's half-naked, and he seems to challenge the onlooker to take him on. OT thinks this could be a new art-form: Great covers of Smiths albums that never were.

## Tony? Call them Bruce

Well, if that wasn't the gayest Tony Awards on record, we're Bernadette Peters on acid. The tone was set last Sunday night when Tony winners for best original score (and domestic partners)

Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman laid into a big, wet, same-sex smooch right there at the podium.

Wittman: "My mother took me to Radio City every Saturday morning when I was a kid, and she used to say to me, 'One day you'll be

up there.' I always thought she meant [as] a Rockette."

Shaiman: "I love this man. We are not allowed to get married in this country, I don't know why, but I'd like to declare in front of a million people, I love you, and I'd like to live with you for the rest of my life."

Tell us if you think this is gay enough: *Hairspray*, inspired by the John Waters camp classic, is the year's best musical. Apparently, it's this year's *Oklahoma!* Does that mean Baltimore is the new Tulsa? Harvey Fierstein, in a house-dress, is this year's best actor in a musical. *Take Me Out*, Richard Greenberg's drama about a gay major-league baseball player, is best play. It was a year in which Frog could sing a love song to Toad, and Toad could leap Frog, and not seem out of place.

Oddest moment: the broadcast suddenly lurched by satellite to LA for the dispensation of the final award, which was announced by Jason Alexander and Martin Short from the stage of the touring production of *The Producers* — only Short claimed they were appearing in *Puppetry of the Penis*.

## Body language

In his trenchant treatise on the "straight man's hug" for the June/July *Details*, gay author Augustine Burroughs breaks it down into its component parts: "1. It begins with a very firm handshake. 2. The stronger of the two — the more manly, smelly alpha male — pulls the other man to his chest in a near stranglehold. 3. They hold for a count of three. 4. Each man slaps the other's back, loudly. 5. They grip each other's shoulders, push off, and step away."

Burroughs explains the slap by the fact that "it stings and takes a man out of the moment of intimacy. A hug by itself would feel warm, comforting, and close. But to most straight guys, this is just plain gay. So there has to be a little jolt of discomfort, a reminder that they're straight."

Should that slapping hand move a few inches south to a man's ass, the hug goes out of bounds. "That's definitely not okay. Unless, of course, both men are wearing polyester, protective plastic cups, and helmets." We ask again: who's the intended readership for this darling magazine? ▼

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# The dead cavort among the living

Navarrete x Kajiyama blend traditions

by Michael Wade Simpson

Death speaks all languages. It is the living who choose different tongues to tell its story, different rituals to remember those departed. Two San Francisco-based choreographers, one Japanese-American, one Mexican, both gay, are blending traditions to find their own way of honoring the dead in a new dance theatre piece, *Ghost Memories* (June 12-15 at Dance Mission Theatre).

Debby Kajiyama, a Japanese-American Bay Area native, and Mexican-born José Navarrete used the Obon Festival in Japan and Mexico's *Día de los Muertos* as starting points in their choreographic exploration. Kajiyama's Stanford degree is in Japanese, and she spent several years living and studying there, while Navarrete, a dancer with a Cultural Anthropology degree from UC Berkeley, grew up observing the Mexican Day of the Dead celebration at his home.

In Japan, the Obon Festival is the time when spirits are said to come back to visit. The festival features public drumming and dancing, picnics and offerings, and a Buddhism-based emphasis on death as a journey. "The idea of life and death isn't so black and white," Kajiyama said in a recent interview. "When you die, there is a passage to the afterlife, and then you come back in another form."

In Mexico, Navarrete recalled the cooking of the favorite foods of the deceased, altars with photographs and candles, graves mounded with marigolds, and pathways of petals left scattered outside the homes, so the dead could find their way back.

Kajiyama and Navarrete have asked the dancers in their piece to imagine their own death, and their own funeral. The music, performed live by the composers, Jimi Nakagawa and Kallan Nishimoto, features the *huaca*, a Peruvian ocarina; *fue*, a flute; *kane*, a percussion object; Taiko drums, singing bowls, guitar and sitar, Mexican folk songs and Japanese festival drumming. In the dance, one section features the death of a dog, played by the well-known local dancer Sue Roginski, while Oscar Trujillo appears in another part as a female goddess of Japanese legend.

## Takes two to...

If this all sounds a little edgy, consider the other main obsession



A gay man (Navarrete) and a lesbian (Kajiyama) in a feast of partnership.

of the two choreographers: the Tango. For a gay man and lesbian to enter the delicate feast of partnership in a dance known for its sexual depths and intimacy is somewhat unusual. That seems to be the point.

"My partner is from Buenos Aires, and he likes to say Tango is for prostitutes and fags," said Navarrete. "I thought it was boring, a dance for old people, until I saw this one young girl..." After that, he was hooked. His Tango for two men, "Essay on Tango" (1998), uses modern dance and the Tango form to explore intimacy between men. Navarrete won two Isadora Duncan Award nominations for choreography and performance for the piece, which was choreographed for the Gay Dance Festival.

"I wouldn't do it [the Tango] if I couldn't move it into something personally relevant," said Kajiyama, who was a modern dancer before becoming a Tango person, and has gone on to embrace the study of

Taiko drumming and traditional Japanese dance forms. "You have to learn how to follow," she said. "It reminds me of contact improvisation [a highly physical form of give-and-take, instantaneous duets]. It's about communication."

Clearly, Navarrete and Kajiyama see their cultural differences as creative opportunities. And yet, there are many similarities. "We are longing to find a spiritual context within performance," Navarrete said.

For Kajiyama, working with José Navarrete is part of her goal to expand the idea of modern dance. "We hope that the piece won't be foreign to anyone," she said. ▼

Navarrete x Kajiyama Dance Theater presents *Ghost Memories* and other circumstances, June 12-15 at Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. For tickets, call (415) 273-4633.

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# Princes of Rossini's 'Cenerentola'

Tenor Juan Diego Florez, maestro Patrick Summers deserve ovations

by Stephanie von Buchau

Listen up, because I'm tired of repeating this. The San Francisco Opera audience is not stupid, provincial or unable to tell a hawk from a handsaw. Saturday night at the War Memorial, after a three-hour *La Cenerentola* that had its ups and downs, the audience voted firmly, with an extended, cheering ovation for tenor Juan Diego Florez and conductor Patrick Summers. Since they had definitely been the stars of the show, operating at the highest possible level throughout, all around them tended to pale. The point is that the much-maligned SFO patrons can hear, and they know what they like — at least in bel canto opera: voice, voice and more voice.

The production is by the late Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, cute when first seen, but blurry now that it has been refurbished umpteen times since 1969 when it was new in San Francisco, having debuted the previously year at the Maggio Musicale in Firenze. The stage director, longtime Ponnelle associate Grischa Asagaroff, had nothing fresh to contribute; his obvious shuck was enthusiastically enacted by the cast to middling comic effect. It is worth noting that Florez and mezzo-soprano Mika Shigematsu did not participate in the squealing or prat-falling; if it was Asagaroff's (or



Mezzosoprano Mika Shigematsu

Ponnelle's; frankly I can't remember) idea to keep them pure, it was a good one.

*Cenerentola* is usually assumed to be the mezzo's vehicle. Wide-eyed, sweet-natured and as over-flowing with goodness as her music is with bravura coloratura, Angelina (little angel) is the perfect Cinderella prototype. SFO has been lucky in its *Cenerentolas*. Teresa Berganza (1969) was innocence plus, as was young Frederica von Stade almost 30 years ago. Everybody loved Marilyn Horne (1982), even though her Angelina was tough as a truck-driver. Best of all was Olga Borodina in 1995, a combination of heavenly singing and grave, tender personality. (Not "sparkly" enough for some; their loss.)

Though each lady was paired with the best Rossini tenor of the time — Pierre Bottazzo, Ugo Benelli, Francisco Araiza, Kurt Streit — I can barely remember anything about them. I'll never forget this year's Prince Ramiro, the dishy Peruvian Florez, and neither will anyone else who hears him sing this June. The guy is drop-dead gorgeous to look at. He's an intense, commanding actor — I couldn't stop watching his reactions during the comic nonsense practiced by Daniel Belcher, as Dandini, the valet in disguise.

Then there is that voice. Technically, a leggiero tenor with plenty of "ping" on top, with a scale so equalized there are no bumps or breaks anywhere, with pitch as rock-solid as Alcatraz, and, most amazing of all, an intensely masculine tone. Most so-called Rossini tenors — the Rocky Blakes and Bruce Fords — no matter how well they sing, sound emasculated. Florez sounds like a stud, and his Italianate way with the text and phrasing were whipped cream and cherries on top of the cake, all the more so as he was the only member of the cast to pronounce that language properly.

#### Give a hoot

Shigematsu, who replaced the indisposed Sonia Ganassi (don't even think about what Ganassi and Florez would have been like together; they'd still be scraping



Florez as Prince Ramiro: pitch as rock-solid as Alcatraz, masculine tone.

me off the seat), is an accomplished singer and, for a substitute, she did very well, warming up as the evening went on. But her voice is half a size too small for the War Memorial (she was lost in the ensembles), and she has a peculiar way of producing vowels that is not only un-Italian, thereby impeding the flow of music, but gives her tone a hoity edge that is reminiscent of Horne's less-than-dulcet singing.

Two of the men had similar impediments. Belcher, a mild Harlequin in last fall's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, was more animated as Dandini, but his coloratura singing consists of a string of aspirates — "HaHaHa, HeHeHe, HehHehHeh" — that becomes increasingly irritating as the evening goes on. And though Eike Wilm Schulte has a warm presence and booming basso as the philosopher Alidoro, his lack of Italianate vowels kept his aria from achieving its full potential. Don Magnifico (Kevin Glavin), Clorinda (Saundra DeAthos) and Thisbe (Catherine Cook) were all better

actors than singers.

It didn't matter once Summers raised his baton to produce the best-conducted Rossini overture I've ever heard in an opera house — crisp, scintillating, witty (piccolos should have taken a solo bow), with that patented "Rossini crescendo" producing more smiles than ever. Summers accompanied flawlessly, kept the ensembles ticking like clockwork, and brought the show in at nearly 20 minutes under the announced running time. He also insisted on employing a new critical edition that uses just 45 players (brilliantly), including reduced strings, a forte piano for recits, and no timpani.

This *Cenerentola* was not an evening of "production values." I'm sure SFO is saving that for *Damnation of Faust*. At its best, it was about those musical verities: great conducting and great singing. Savor it, applaud it, and, if necessary, demand more. If Juan Diego Florez is not immediately re-engaged, there is something rotten in Denmark. I, too, know a hawk from a handsaw. ▼

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## THEATRE

# The season of worthy benefits

## 'Help Is on the Way,' 'I Remember It Well'

by Richard Dodds

While summer brings a dip in theatrical openings, it is the season for benefits with a theatrical flair. Here's the lineup.

Now in its ninth year, *Help Is on the Way* has titled its upcoming benefit concert *Red Hot Broadway*. Christine Ebersole, Michele Lee, Lucie Arnaz, Stefanie Powers, Lorenzo Lamas, and Rod McKuen are just a sampling of the marquee names who will be warbling show tunes on July 28 at the Palace of Fine Arts.

This year, proceeds from the annual concert will benefit the AIDS Legal Referral Panel, the Center for Caregiver Training, Meals for Marin, New Leaf: Services for Our Community, and the UCSF AIDS Health Project. *Help Is On the Way* is presented by the Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation, founded by two Bay Area mothers who lost their sons to AIDS.

Tickets are \$50 and \$75, and \$150 will get you into a post-show reception with the cast. Call 273-1620.

Word for Word, acclaimed for its skill at making theater from literature, has Pulitzer Prize-winning Michael Chabon as celebrity bait for its upcoming benefit show. A performance of Chabon's short story *More Than Human* will be followed by a discussion with the Bay Area author, best known for his novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*.

With proceeds helping underwrite the costs of Word for Word's 10th season, *An Evening with Michael Chabon* will take place June 30 in the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason. Tickets are \$40. Call 345-7575.

Also on June 30, 42nd Street Moon, purveyor of "lost musicals," will be raising funds with a show headlined by Leslie Caron



Leslie Caron headlines at the Herbst.

and dedicated to the songs of Alan Jay Lerner. Also on the bill at the Herbst Theatre event are Sharon Lawrence, Ann Morrison, Davis Gaines, and Andrea Marcovici.

Tickets to *I Remember It Well: The Songs of Alan Jay Lerner* are \$40, \$75, and \$150, with the final denomination including a post-show reception. Call 978-2787.

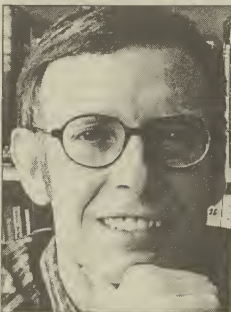
San Jose Rep will be taking it to the streets for its July 12 fundraiser. Well, not exactly the streets, but under a tent in the plaza adjacent

to the theater. *Blue Twilight* is centered on a late-afternoon performance of *Cookin' at the Cookery: The Music and the Times of Alberta Hunter*, and will include pre- and post-show receptions, dining, and dancing under the big top.

Tony-winner Ann Duquesnay stars as the late veteran blue singers in the musical tribute beginning regular performances on July 2. Individual tickets to the benefit start at \$250. Call (408) 367-7259.

### In the playground

From 230 submissions came 36 plays chosen for development in PlayGround's *Monday Night PlayLab* series. And from those 36, seven short plays were chosen for full production in the *Best of PlayGround*. The annual emerging playwrights festival runs June 12-29 at A Traveling Jewish Theatre.



Brayton would like to buy a vowel.

Among the winners is Cass Brayton, also known as a Sister of Perpetual Indulgence, whose *I'd Like to Buy a Vowel* will be performed in the festival. The 10-minute play is described as "an odd lover's triangle with a drag queen, in which drama can sometimes substitute for love."

The festival will also include staged readings of two new full-length plays commissioned by PlayGround. Kristina Goodnight's *The Eve Generation* will be presented on June 21, and gay playwright Garret Jon Groenfeld's *Missives* on June 28.

A final bit of PlayGround news: The *Monday Night PlayLab* series is moving to Berkeley Rep in the fall, partly because of SRO houses at the old venue.

For festival tickets, call 987-2787. A full schedule is available at [www.playground-sf.org](http://www.playground-sf.org).

### Holdovers

The city's two main gay theaters both seem to be blessed with summer hits.

Howard Crabtree's *When Pigs Fly*, the funny-silly-sweet gay musical at New Conservatory Theatre Center, had been scheduled to close on June 28, but that date has now been pushed back to July 13. Call 861-8972.

At Theatre Rhino, *Cocksucker: A Love Story* was originally announced for an open-ended run, but that's never good business, because people are procrastinators. So now extensions of Ronnie Larsen's semi-autobiographical

play are being parceled out, with the current one taking the show through June 29. Call 861-5079.

### Short scenes

Gay author Gregory Maguire will be reading from his novel *Wicked*, the basis of the pre-Broadway musical at the Curran, at 6 p.m. June 12 at Borders on Union Square. Cast members from the show will also be on hand to sing several songs from the Stephen Schwartz score.

Carla Zilbersmith performs 31 characters in *Wedding Singer Blues*, her self-penned solo show running through June 28 at the Shelton Theatre. The main focus is on a singer named Carla and her "odyssey down the show business boulevard of broken dreams." Call (510) 527-7813.

### Correction

In last week's review of *Cocksucker: A Love Story* at Theatre Rhino, the names of two characters and the actors playing them were transposed. It is Ronnie Kerr who projects "enthusiastic male bravado" as a Marine named Jimmy, while Eric Womack plays pornmaker Harry. ▽

Richard Dodds can be reached at [BARstage@aol.com](mailto:BARstage@aol.com).

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# Fun in everyone's shorts

Short films male and female in SF Int'l Lesbian & Gay Film Fest, week 1

by David Lamble

Here are our choices for 13 selected shorts from six different programs in the first week of the 2003 Frameline fest.

**Fun in Boys' Shorts** *Spin* A party full of horny London teenagers takes an unexpected turn over a game of Spin-the-Bottle. Australian Cath Le Couteur, who won her spurs assisting the great Mike Figgis, shows how short films can offer nifty epiphanies. Fiz (darkly handsome Julian Morris, of NBC's *Young Arthur* series) is the life of the party. The winners of each turn of the bottle get two minutes alone in the upstairs john. Jad (Ryan Dabner) is the cute boy in the Nike togs hovering in the background. Very British, alcohol-fueled, passionate, *Spin* is a window on a more permissive time when boys can screw up their courage and turn a corner. A vividly evoked scene, complete with miniature racing cars and the throbbing beats of Lunatic Calm.



In Michael Apted's short, *Lipstick*, a high-school girl comes out.

**Short, White, Pleated** Another female-helmed British short (Georgina Lock) that illustrates just how good the right boy (Sam Talbot) can look in a skirt when combined with an hot iron, a cold shower, and a nice backhand on the squash court.

**Bumping Heads** Never miss a chance to catch the incomparable Craig Chester, who, in this wry short by the veteran Brian Sloan, shows just what kind of headache a dashing boy (Anderson Gabrych) can give a man of 35. A very ambiguous boys'-night-out that bounces quickly from a club to a hospital emergency room, with Chester and Gabrych deftly dueling over the nuances of just what puts the boy in boyfriend. (FIBS: Castro Theatre, 6/14 & 29)

**Fun in Girls' Shorts** *Kiss and Tell* "Do we kiss people just to kiss people? No, I think kissing is really deep." Michaline Babich's short is smart and provocative on a subject dear to us all. I was introduced to kissing by a long-haired Jewish boy at a train station, having been dropped off by another Jewish boy I had a crush on in college radio. Babich's film has women

from all walks of life open up to us as frankly as I have, with results that can make us rethink how our erotic impulses shape who we are always on the verge of becoming. "She just kissed me. It was kind of weird. I was drunk, very drunk, and I actually liked her boyfriend. But then, he was dating this girl, so we were all hanging out, so it was kind of weird and awkward. And soft."

**Butch in the City** "What is it about being a single butch dyke in New York City that makes happiness and contentment so elusive?" Julie Goldman and Mary C. Matthews send up a certain cable-TV show, getting off a few lines you may want to file for future use: "We're butches, we don't need security!" or, "I was in a penis coma for almost three weeks." "Love is like New York City, a grid of streets and avenues, taxis and subways, pools of urine and piles of dog poop, an island of love and garbage." Isn't it romantic.

**Give or Take an Inch** "I just want things to be normal." "You're kidding, right? You stole a man's pregnant wife." Amanda Bearse (*Married with Children*) is a lesbian mom who gets a little cross



A teenager goes on a personals date in *Precious Moments*, from Norway.

when her sister decides to get a penis in Lee Friedlander's hip look at a North Carolina family reunion. When four kids in a brood are queer, the wiseass gene is not dormant. "Did Shakespeare write tragedies about women like you, or was it Danielle Steel?"

**Lipstick** Michael Apted (35 Up) helms a girl short in this tender piece about a teenager's high-school coming out. On a pizza date, Jenny remembers that Emily prefers no lemon with her tea. Will Emily be able to return the favor when they're surprised by her school chums? (FIBS: Castro, 6/14 & 29)

**Class Queers** *Fade to Pink* Seven queer kids from Austin try their hands at filming a pride short about a pair of cowboy boots with aspirations of becoming a pair of pink high-heels. We follow the gang as they go from giggly and camera shy to proficient filmmakers. On a field trip to a local bootery, a young dyke whispers an aside to the camera, "I feel like I'm in Lubbock." "You are, honey," comes the reply. (Castro, 6/17)

**Twisted** *Come Nightfall* Max (Will Heermance) is intrigued by an old cowboy (Slim Fuller) with a yen for ladies' shoes in this eerie short that feels like the first act of a feature film. Writer/director Abigail Severance has a nice feel for the awkward pauses and hiccups of speech torn from life. The cowboy seems a little too friendly, and Max is a lurky turkey with a stolen pocketknife and a secret that's about to come tumbling out. (Herbst Theatre, 6/18)

**Worldly Affairs** *Diary of a Male Whore* A young Palestinian has a dark flashback while performing a sexual service for an elderly Jewish man, recalling life in his village before it was invaded by the Israeli Army.

**Precious Moments** A teenager goes on a classified-ad date which has a rude conclusion, in this ironic short from Norway. (WA: Castro, 6/16; Herbst, 6/22)

**Growing Pains** *Steven's Sin* If you've ever wanted to know just what those sexy Mormon boys are up to on their missions, Lynda Tarryk's short suggests that temptation is everywhere. The very wholesome-appearing Christopher Isaacson is Steven Brown, who finds his limits sorely tested by the devilishly sly Javier Perez (Patrick White).

**Jared. Puberty in Pink** Jared (the self-assured Dane Curley, who's Ralphie's son on *The Sopranos*) appears to be your average skateboarding 12-year-old. His mother, Mary (Kimberly Greene), unknowingly throws down the gauntlet when she dates the handsome stud Cal (Robert Wells Young), who seems to take a fatherly interest in Jared on a family night of bowling.

Jared, who has swiped his mom's best earrings, decides to make a bid to be the other woman on a boys'-night-out with Cal. "Do you think I'm pretty?" Joyce Draganosky gives a thoughtfully low-key treatment to Richard David Boyce's script exploring adolescent genderbending. (GP: Castro, 6/13) ▼

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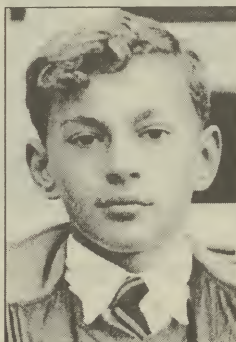
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## Documentaries

◀ Arts cover

of *Gore Vidal* (Castro, 6/16), starring the patrician, acid-tongued queen of literature, playwriting, and politicking, the latter as both observer and participant. Grimly clever home-truths pour like honey from Vidal throughout this valentine: The US is "a nation of shoplifters"; the Founding Fathers, far from nice fellas, "wanted a republic where it was safe for white men to do business." One of the treats of the film is seeing Vidal's elusive lover as the two of them stroll through the piazzas near their Italian home, or take a cab through New York City to attend readings of his work. Archival footage captures 10-year-old Gore when he flew a plane, and many years later debating at the Democratic Convention with a screeching, spewing William Buckley, whose arched-eyebrow threats that he's going to "plaster" Vidal's "goddamn face" come off



The young Gore Vidal is captured.

as the ravings of an unhinged drag queen.

### That's education

Vidal despairs of the culture and dismisses the idea of a future, but perhaps if he saw Judy Wilder and Laura Barton's *Dildo Diaries* next page ▶



# FILM

## 'Mommie' makes good

### Director Mark Rucker on 'Die Mommie Die'

by Adam Sandel

I just directed my first movie," e-mailed Mark Rucker to an old college friend a couple of months ago. "It's called, *Die Mommie Die!*"

What the modest director neglected to mention was that the film had already been an award-winning hit at the Sundance Film Festival, earning a Special Grand Jury Prize for Acting for its writer and star, Charles Busch.

"My dream is to see the movie play to a full house at the Castro Theatre," wrote Rucker in a later e-mail.

It didn't take long for that dream to come true. *Die Mommie Die!* debuts tonight as the opening night film of the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival.

"This whole movie has been like a dream articulated," says Rucker. "While we were putting it together, I thought, 'Wouldn't it be great to take it to Sundance? Wouldn't it be great to show it at the Castro?'"

It's hard to imagine a more perfect setting than the Castro Theatre for Busch's affectionate send-up of "women's films" of the '40s and '50s. The film freely samples every melodrama that ever starred Bette Davis, Susan Hayward, Joan Crawford or Lana Turner. It's like *Far from Heaven* — only intentionally funny.

Several years ago, Rucker approached Busch after a stage performance of *Die Mommie Die!* in Los Angeles and thought it would make a terrific film. "The biggest challenge was getting someone to finance it, which took a couple of years," he says.

Dante Di Loreto and Anthony Edwards (best known as Dr. Mark Greene on *ER*) produced the film under their Aviator Films banner, along with stage and film producer Bill Kenwright.

"We shot it on a very limited budget of under \$1 million in 18 days, which is a week shorter than the lowest low-budget film," says Rucker. "So I really had to be prepared." For two months prior to shooting, Rucker worked with director of photography Kelly Evans to storyboard every scene in the movie.

A veteran stage director and Associate Artist at South Coast Repertory Theater, Rucker has helmed productions at major regional theatres including Yale Repertory, the La Jolla Playhouse, Arena Stage, and the Globe Theatres, Berkeley Rep and ACT.

But making the transition from stage to film directing was not difficult at all. "It's great because you get to make the movie three times," he says. "Planning it,



Part of the cast of *Mommie...*, a camp delight written by Charles Busch.

shooting it and then editing it."

#### Busch league

The most surprising thing about the film is Busch's convincingly subtle drag performance as Angela Arden, a washed-up singing star with a mysterious past, a tyrannical husband (Philip Baker Hall), a contemptuous daughter (Natasha Lyonne), an oversexed son (Stark Sands), a disdainful maid (Frances Conroy) and a gigolo boyfriend (Jason Priestley).

"We were very interested in calibrating Charles' performance for the screen so it wouldn't be just a camp fest that gets old after 15 minutes," says Rucker. To achieve that goal, the director shot three takes of Busch's scenes, ranging from subtle to over-the-top, and then chose the best takes while editing.

"I see beyond the superficial camp quality of Charles' work to the passion that he has for those films and actresses," says Rucker. "You can't say a nasty thing about Joan Crawford to him. He loves her!"

Although you'd expect there to be challenges in directing the film's writer, Rucker has nothing but praise for Busch. "He was great, so easy to work with and interested in my input," he says. "You'd think that after 25 years of performing, he'd be more rigid, but he really wanted to collaborate. He's a dear man and a real gentleman."

Gay film fans will get a special kick out of heartthrob Jason Priestley's performance as the bisexual, over-endowed gigolo Tony Parker, who not only shares a passionate lip lock with Busch's Angela, but seduces her daughter and teenage son.

"He was so game," laughs Rucker. "He's the nicest guy in the world, but he's so straight. He's one of the only guys I've ever met

who can say 'dude' and get away with it."

In one day of shooting, Priestley was required to make out with Busch and seduce the naked Stark Sands (of *Six Feet Under*). "At the end of the day I said to Jason, 'You're a real professional,'" says Rucker. "He said, 'Thanks. Now I wanna go out and get a beer.'"

The film wrapped just two weeks before Priestley was seriously injured in a car-racing accident. "We were editing the movie knowing that he was comatose," says Rucker. "But he came to Sundance, which was his first public appearance after the accident. He's expected to make a full recovery."

#### Sundance kids

Having his first film chosen to be one of the 16 films in dramatic competition at the Sundance Film Festival was heady stuff for the stage veteran. "It was the biggest thrill of my life," says Rucker. "Sundance is like a circus: amazing, exhilarating and ridiculous."

Although *Die* is certain to delight connoisseurs of gay camp, the filmmakers weren't sure how it would be received by a non-gay audience at a prestigious film festival. "We were surprised and happy with how much they liked it," says Rucker. "But I'm really looking forward to playing it at the Castro!"

The post-Sundance buzz has generated commercial distribution for the film as part of the Sundance Film Series (it opens theatrically in San Francisco on Halloween at the Metreon). Rucker is now happily contemplating a career that spans both film and theatre. "The more I understand about the film world, the more I see that there's enough down-time between projects to direct theatre," he says. "I can't believe that in my middle age, I'm having such an exciting change in my career."

But ya are, Mark, but ya are. ▼

## Documentaries

◀ previous page

(Castro, 6/19), he'd change his mind. This witty, sexy doc looks at the wacky world of our favorite piece of plastic, using the insanity that is Texas as its starting point. Every queen of every sex should know that possessing five dildos there is okay, but getting caught with six is a felony. In Texas, they can't be called dildos; they're "educational models." Appalling scenes of the Texas legislature ruthlessly writing Biblical moral-

ty into the penal code are balanced by comic tours of a dildo factory, interviews with dildo industry magnates, images of scary turn-of-the-20th-century sex devices, and "casting" scenes with a well-hung hunk. Annie Sprinkle also appears to spread joy; does this woman ever sleep? Also on this bill is Lisa Seidenberg's captivating shorter doc *Being Human*, which follows a couple of very public nudists through the streets of London and in and out of court.

Perhaps, too, Vidal should have watched Todd Ahlberg's *Hooked*

(Castro, 6/14) before making any sweeping conclusions about the decline of the culture. Or maybe this doc, about the lure and sometimes unpleasant consequences of Internet sex addiction, could provide further evidence of approaching Armageddon. "It'll make you a monster," says one guy. "I lie about my age, I string them along!" screams another. A third, citing the dangers of that policy of fabricating an online self that won't match up when the date occurs, says, "I shouldn't have to ask a 30-year-old, 'Do you have teeth?'" ▼

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## SFILGFF, week 1

◀ Arts cover

Fox is out to demonstrate what the Israeli Army's tolerance for gay soldiers means in practice, offering up the odd paradoxes that can coexist in a frontier society (under siege since its inception) where instinctual machismo is at war with the egalitarian leftover Socialism from the kibbutz era.

The playful bantering between the two guys is superbly realized. Yossi and Jagger have their sublime moment in the first act — don't come late to this one. (Castro Theatre, 6/14)

**The Mudge Boy** And now for something completely different — although it does involve a boy trying on his mother's wedding dress. Michael Burke's debut feature is a low-key coming-of-age drama that sneaks up on us with triple-barreled themes, crossing an exploration of grief with an exquisitely nuanced father/son relationship and one of the best depictions I've ever seen of the slippery line that many adolescent friendships teeter along, and the perils of crossing the line.

Emile Hirsch is Duncan Mudge. Having wowed audiences as the sassy prep-school trickster in *The Emperor's Club*, and mixed vulnerability and passion as a Catholic teen with divided loyal-

ties in *The Dangerous Lives of Altar Boys*, Hirsch slips into disarmingly low gear as a socially naive bordering on autistic farmboy reeling from the sudden death of his mother. Duncan clings to his mom's things — her clothes, the bicycle she died riding, and her pet chicken — possessions that become a bridge to a dangerous friendship with a neighbor boy, Perry (Thomas Guiry).

Trying to impress Perry with a secret, Duncan puts the chicken's head inside his mouth, claiming that it calms the bird. Perry freaks ("You're weird,") and even Duncan's long-suffering dad (*Six Feet Under*'s Richard Jenkins) finally explodes in exasperated rage. "What's the matter? You can't even get into trouble like a normal boy?"

While *The Mudge Boy* will be on cable in due time, its virtues are best appreciated on the big screen. Pristine rural Vermont becomes so vivid that by the time Perry pushes Duncan off a railroad trestle you almost feel how cold the water is. The boys' pleasure is offset by the scary moment when Duncan impulsively touches Perry's body, hard-muscled from farmwork. Duncan and Perry have their own reasons for what they do. Either or neither may turn out gay. (Castro, 6/13)

**Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter** A film with serious cult potential, from Canadian director Lee Gor-



*Jesus Christ Vampire Hunter*, shot in Ottawa, has serious cult potential.

don Demarbre, almost defies description. Think *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* meets *Jackass*, with the nuptials performed by Russ Meyers.

Shot in Ottawa on the money you'd spend on the bargain menu at Jack in the Box, the film features a scene where Jesus rises out of the sea to help combat an invasion of lesbian vampires who, according to Ottawa critic Jay Stone, "have learned to walk in daylight and are therefore doubly dangerous, the second danger being that they are causing a serious lesbian shortage."

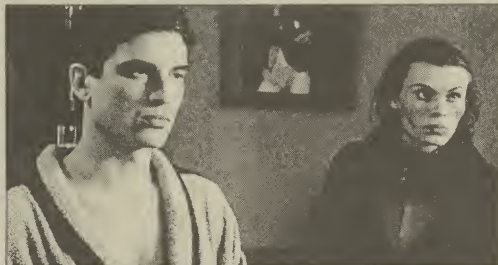
Described as pure Canadian cheese, "lovingly-made cheddar," *Jesus Christ* is among many things a musical, with Jesus (Phil Caracas) crooning, "I was born in a manger/Doomed to live in danger." Tim DeVries (lead singer of the Hammerheads) plays a bad priest whose showstopper is "Everybody Gets Laid Tonight." A mix of flying body parts, bad kung fu, Mexican wrestling and a guy who jumps a motorcycle over cars, catch it at the Castro (6/14, 16) before its permanent home on the Sci Fi channel.

**Die Mommie Die** Charles Busch once revealed the secret of his success: He writes roles for women of a certain age, roles fit for the likes of Bette Davis, Barbara Stanwyck or Norma Shearer, and then he slaps on a wig and plays them himself, realistically, "or realistically in the grand manner of the star ladies of the past."

In *Die Mommie Die*, Charles is Angela Adams, a washed-up singer who hates her movie-mogul husband, her screwed-up children and all her old records. Angela has a secret too hilarious to spoil, but the set-up is funny enough, a kind of spoof within a spoof. The main angle is a black-comedy version of the murder of Agamemnon by Clytemnestra. Angela is doing in hubby Sol Sussman with a poisoned suppository (Philip Baker Hall wickedly plays Sol as a Lew Wasserman wannabe: "Nobody said it was going to be easy being an old Jew.") In this Greek tragedy played as domestic farce, Natasha Lyonne (*But I'm a Cheerleader*) is Daddy's little girl; Stark Sand is her brainless brother, Lance, who's just been kicked out of college ("They said I insti-

tuted a homosexual orgy in the faculty lounge"); Jason Priestly is playboy Tony Parker, a shady Lothario with a twist of Tab Hunter, along with "the biggest cock West of the San Andreas fault"; and Francis Conroy does a dizzy turn as the family's maid, Bootsie Carp.

The Busch dialogue crackles with deadpan wit: "As ketchup is to meatloaf, so sorrow is a condiment to joy." (Castro, Opening Night and Gala, 6/12)



The thriller *Gender Bias* could be one of this year's sleeper hits.

**Gender Bias** One of this year's sleepers, Francis Girod's erotically fueled thriller features the combustible teaming of a gorgeous transsexual, Bo Ancellin (Robinson Stevenin won the 2002 "French Oscar," aka Cesar), with a pushy police chief (Richard Boringier) and a volatile, sexy hoodlum, Johnny (Stephane Metzger).

While the inciting incident is a murder spree targeting rent boys/girls and transvestites in one of Brussels' seedier neighborhoods, the real appeal is the way Stevenin plays the many layers of Bo, combining feminine allure with an honest portrayal of a human being with real problems. (Castro, 6/17)

**Sirens of the 23rd Century** Imagine a future where the fashion police are no joke, and show trials go beyond Martha-bashing to prohibit all attempts at bringing beauty into the world. This film follows the adventures of a fashion guerrilla movement seeking to restore the right to be fabulous. (Castro, 6/16)

**Porn Theatre** "It's the full moon.

I need cock." "I know people who regret they never had a homosexual encounter. I won't die ignorant." "A trick is easier than staying with somebody you don't love." "Do I suck as well as your wife?" Like the chorus from an especially randy modern opera, Jacques Nolot's *Porn Theatre* reveals what the patrons of a Paris grindhouse have to say to each other in the dark. That cute guy, who seems a dream come true, turns out to be just another working girl. "It's a bargain. I used to charge 100 [francs] in the Army."

The regulars observe their rituals, flicking their Bics to check the condition of the seats before settling in for a hard day's night — moments that confirm why *Porn Theatre* made John Waters' Top 10 list. A well-dressed, middle-aged man stands out from the crowd, Rick (played by Nolot): HIV-positive, surviving by maintaining his personal code with its hard-bitten romanticism. "What's sad is when a friend dies, it reassures me. It's not my turn yet," he says. "A cock in the butt is better than any analysis."

Inevitably, the joint is raided, and, just like in *Casablanca*, only the usual suspects are rousted, the

cynical French cops snarling as they file out with their sacrificial prey. "Why don't those faggots go to see gay films?"

The central drama of *Porn Theatre* involves an odd menage of an innocent boy from the sticks, the newly hired projectionist learning the ropes from the middle-aged ticket-taker, who has her sights on Rick, for whom the boy is fantasy bait. Before this trio hits the streets, Rick sighs, "I used to bring anybody home, now they frighten me." (Castro, 6/13)

**Laura's Paradise** Unscreened, but the plot sounds like a French version of *White Oleander*, where a good girl is sucked into the bad-girl ways of her mother, with the added twist of an obsessive, drug-fueled affair with a hot law student named Sophie. The French are good at giving us heroines drawn to the brink of madness then redeemed, without succumbing to the bathos of an after-school special. (Castro, 6/16, 17)

**Blue Gate Crossing** This very slow-moving Taiwanese feature is worth the time for the way it works the sexual identity crisis of a young schoolgirl who, having a crush on her tomboy friend, decides to do that friend's bidding by propositioning a hot male swimmer on the friend's behalf. The boy doesn't believe there is a friend, and the resulting foreplay around the school pool late at night, and on languorous bike rides through lush city streets, provides insight into how we frame the objects of our desire.

There's offbeat chemistry between a training-wheels dyke and a spiky-haired Chinese boy with more pose and self-knowledge than you'd expect. (Castro, 6/14) ▼

[www.frameline.org/festival](http://www.frameline.org/festival)

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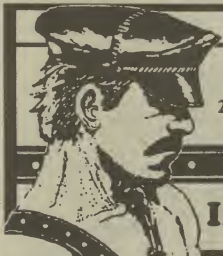
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## FILM

# Our picks in dicks, gay film fest 2003

## Penisspotting in the programming of the 27th Frameline festival

by Gary Morris

One of the pleasures of growing up in the guilt-drenched glory days before Stonewall was the furtive search for the penis — not the *real* penis, though of course that happened, too — but the image of or reference to the penis in books, catalogs, movies, artworks, etc. Books with a queer theme were ruthlessly scanned by horny queens for the brief homo coupling, with pages dog-eared or noted discreetly in pencil at the back for future one-fisted reading. Museums and art books were devoutly scoured for naughty am-phorae or pre-Columbian hard-ons. Sears catalogs were subjected to a metaphorical cavity search,

the models in the underwear ads imaginatively shorn of their duds. Movies (well, non-porn movies) were a constant frustration as busty gladiators coyly hid their wares behind tiny loincloths, and matinee idols stood rigidly clothed while their female counterparts whipped off their dresses.

Surprisingly, the culture continues to go to enormous lengths to suppress, shadow, disguise, befog, or otherwise obscure the penis and all it represents. As a public service to the armies of queens who won't stand for such foolishness decades after the alleged sexual revolution, our team of scientist-cocksuckers have scrutinized a substantial chunk of this year's SFILGFF for images of that treasured *objet d'art*, the penis.

As always, the first place we look is in the shorts programs, and *Boys Got Spunk* and *Sexotica* live up to their titles, if not always with the brio we'd like. Stephen Remington's *Dissolve* stars a fetching if tortured young man who twitches, prances, and digs in his pants, all in an out-of-focus haze. Yet lorgnette-toting queens will see through the haze to our spongy-tissued little pal. The ever-welcome physique dick appears in Michael Barry's sweet short *The Late Night Visitor*, which blends images of a tubby horny boy with clips from the beefcake utopias created by Bob Mizer. *Phineas Slipped*, by somebody named Oakie, startlingly surveys a group of mysteriously sexed students who perpetually leave class to fuck

and suck. Purists may bristle at this one — most of the "boys" seem to be girls, and most of the dicks dildos. But there's enough mystery to inspire a lively discussion at the next meeting of your local Cockspotter's Club.

### Wood work

The *Sexotica* program offers a panoply of penises to the hungry dickologist. Harve Joseph Lebrun's *Le lait Nestle* features sch-long-sporting erotic fantasies with an extra-long prick in one sequence. Nguyen Tan Hoang's *K.I.P.* mixes old porn with home movies; plenty of dick, but it's more artful than erotic. Ian Jarvis' *Smoke Rings* shows a droll queen doing an unusual variant of the ring-toss with a cigarette and a prominent hard-on. Best of all

hole still to be determined.

De-eroticized dick (*aka* clinical cock) is a subgenre that some seekers reject, but there's loads here for those who enjoy it. Lisa Seidenberg's enchanting doc *Being Human* follows a couple of guys who do public nudity in London as a path to liberation. They make up in personality and insight what they lack in other areas. Josh Aronson's excellent bookend docs *The Opposite Sex: Jamie's Story* and *The Opposite Sex: Rene's Story*, about, respectively, an FTM and a MTF gender transition, show, without being too flashy, surgeries that either create or castrate a cock. Sensitive spotters, consider yourselves warned.

Speaking of faux phalli, as one must, constantly, Judy Wilder and Laura Benton's doc *Dildo Diaries* is a fabulous, funny look at latex

page 40 ►

# Let Friedmans ring

## An American family implodes onscreen

by David Lamble

This is [a] private [video], so if you're not me, you really shouldn't be watching this. This is a conversation between me now and me in the future." This tearful soliloquy comes early in Andrew Jarecki's *Capturing the Friedmans*, perhaps the most devastating documentary portrait of an American family's implosion since Terry Zwigoff's *Crumb*. Although his cameras may document a miscarriage of justice rivaling the McMartin pre-school case, Jarecki's real goal is a *Rashomon*-like examination of the very subjective nature of truth in everyday life.

With both present-tense interviews and one of the most extraordinary collection of home movies ever amassed by a middle-class family, *Capturing the Friedmans* does what great novels do: give us characters we care about, put them in terrible peril, allow them to piss us off, and, whether we believe them or not, allow their fate to pose the big questions about what it was like to be alive in their skin.

One day before Thanksgiving 1987, Nassau County detectives used a battering ram to enter the residence of a respected Great Neck, Long Island high school teacher. They arrested 56-year-old Arnold Friedman and 18-year-old Jesse Friedman. The charges: molesting 8- to 11-year-old boys attending a computer class in the Friedmans' basement. Long after the Friedmans have faded from tabloid TV, mother Elaine still can't grasp what has happened. "I can't say too much about it. We were a family."

Jarecki directs the story like a high-stakes poker game. Long-buried family secrets trump information we thought we understood. Characters flatly contradict each other. A major character's sexual orientation adds irony to tragedy; and the tactics of the police sex-crimes unit to intimidate children (hypnosis, coerced testimony) are juxtaposed against the war of nerves within a family unraveling while cameras roll.

You wonder if there was a single private moment in the annals of the Friedman family that wasn't recorded. David, the oldest son, used a new videocamera to capture the increasingly bitter fights between his



*Capturing the Friedmans* is a vexing doc about media-induced hysteria.

father and mother, as well as the war of words he and his brothers directed against Elaine. There's a haunting moment where Arnold and Elaine embrace on camera, their body language undercut by her barb, "I should have affection for you. Why? *Tsuris* [Trouble] is all I've ever gotten from you."

*Capturing the Friedmans* is a punch to the solar plexus of American family values. Queer filmgoers will recognize some of this family's dirty linen: rumors of sex between siblings; hints of a kind of male Lolita syndrome; a cold, controlling mother straight out of a Philip Roth novel. And while no one in the film proclaims that it's the Christians vs. the Jews, at times you can detect a kind of cold war between the largely Catholic Long Island law enforcement establishment and the almost vaudeville, pranksterish anarchy of the Friedmans.

Ultimately, the brunt of the family's meltdown is borne by the youngest son, Jesse, who has his young manhood stolen through a Hobson's choice offered by a prosecution feeding on the case's media-induced hysteria. If there's room for only one vexing documentary on your movie menu, make it *Capturing the Friedmans*. ▼

Opens Friday.



*Sportin' Wood*: most p. per sq. in.

here is *Sportin' Wood*, starring three extra-cute, supposedly straight boys whacking away (and blowing each other) in a motel room. This one deserves the award for MPPSI (most penis per square inch). The boys are invited to receive their prize (and perhaps offer one of their own) at a glory



*Dildo Diaries* features faux phalli.

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# OUT&ABOUT



Marga Gomez, Carmelita Tropicana, and Monica Palacios laugh it up at SomArts Theater as part of the National Queer Arts Festival. See Friday.

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

### Sham + Faux Queens

Queer culture divas will be coming out in full force this weekend, and not to be missed are two pulsing, throbbing presentations of art and performance this Sunday.

First up at **Glama-Rama!**—the hair salon and art gallery for rock stars and their friends—is the opening party for “**Pretty in Plastic**,” featuring celebrity portraits by **Sham**, whose bio shows an artist’s meteoric rise from working at Blockbuster Video for \$5 to becoming a World Famous Celebrity with friends like **Juanita Moore**, **Mr. David**, **Heklin**, **Pippi Lovestock**, **Timothy Cummings**, **Danny Nicolleta**, **Kent Taylor** and of course the divine **Kennedy**. What artist could ask for better friends? All who made their way to **Mad Magda’s** glorious Russian Tea Room during its heyday in the heart of Hayes Valley could find Sham there, working as a tarot card reader. And as everyone knows, **Mad Magda’s** magic made stars of everyone who passed through the portals.

From doing drag at Trannyshack, Sham moved on to making the B-movie *Rock ‘n Roll Hootchies*, and even played opposite **Warhol** Factory starlet **Ivy Nicholson**. He go-go danced at the underground heavy metal party *Sixteen*, and his purple hair, giant pink fur coat, green lipstick and too-much eye shadow landed him in a film scene with **Timothy Hutton**. From there he became an extra in Major Films, and even made a **Shaquille O’Neil** music video that was never released. In New York, as his fame skyrocketed, he glammed around with the likes of **David LaChapelle**, socialite **Jocelyn Wildenstein**, and model **Amanda Le Pore** (above). In L.A., he palled around with billboard icon **Angelyne**, and they met... everyone! He creates art of the people he meets, and it’s worth checking out. See the Sunday listings for details.



“Amanda LePore,” by Sham

#### Faux Queen madness!

After you’ve absorbed all the pop-culture references you can handle at Glama-Rama!, make your way to **Slim’s** (333-11th St.) where the doors open at 8 p.m. for **Klubstitute Kollektive’s 8th Annual “Faux Queen Pageant.”** There you’ll encounter gaggles of girly-boy girls and fabulous she-male impersonators vying for the ultimate Faux Queen crown now held by the delicious **Anita Cocktail**.

The pageant features live music by **Poison Jett Gunz** (glam punk queer metal), and the inimitable sounds of **DJ Jamez**. It benefits the **Women’s Community Clinic** and **San Francisco Sex Information**.

Reigning Queen **Ms. Cocktail** and Faux Queen **II Patty O’Furniture** lead the proceedings, as contestants are scrutinized by the likes of **Rusty Hips** (Drag King of SF; Mr. Trannyshack), **Windy Plains** (Faux Queen VI), **Lu Read**, **Machiko Saito**, **Birdie Bob Watt**, and the legendary **Ruby Toosday**.

The competition is always fierce at these gigs, which is open to all genetically-challenged drag queens. Drink up! You’ll need to fortify yourself for the combat of the year!

Tickets for the gig are \$10-\$25 sliding scale (NOTAFLOF), obtainable from the Slim’s ticket window or call 415-331-1500 ext. D-I-E-T (3438). ▼

## Fri 13

### “iComedy, Por Favor!” @ SomArts Theater

National Queer Arts Festival 2003 (NQAF) presents comedians **Marga Gomez**, **Monica Palacios** and **Carmelita Tropicana** in “iComedy, Por Favor!” An historic event you won’t want to miss. For the first time ever, the nation’s most celebrated Latina legends of queer comedy take to the same stage, proving Marga has flava, Monica has spice, and Tropicana has juice! \$22. 8pm. Also on June 14. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Tix/info: 334-0722; [queerculturalcenter.org](http://queerculturalcenter.org)

### “Halo-Halo” @ Bindlestiff Studio

“Halo-Halo,” a Queer Pin@y Revue, in which Queer Pin@y is defined, but not limited to: femme, butch, and in-between bio girls, boy’s, trans men and women, Philippine and U.S. born, polyamorous and in committed life relationships, mixed-race, lesbian and bisexual. Produced by **Loian Sevilla** and **Maiana Minahal**. \$15 (\$10 students, seniors, disabled). 8pm. Also on June 14. 185 6th St. (at Howard). Tix/info: **Loian Sevilla** at 510-604-2843.

### Cedric Brown @ Jon Sims Center

NQAF Event: AIRspace artist-in-residence **Cedric Brown** performs “I Swing Like That: An Exploration of Jazz and Identity,” accompanied by the **1150 Trio** (**Elise Giancola**, **Jory Cunningham**, and **Glen Iwaoka**). Inspired by the lives of black gay musicians **Billy Strayhorn** and **Andy Bey**, Brown will explore how identity expresses itself through the stories of jazz standards and original music. \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. Also June 14-15. **Jon Sims Center** for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Tix/info: 554-0402; [www.jonsimsctr.org](http://www.jonsimsctr.org)

### “Cocksucker”

#### @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Extended run: “Cocksucker: A Love Story,” written and directed by **Ronnie Larson**, who sets his sights on the few, the proud, the Marines. Set at California’s Marine base, **Camp Pendleton**, “Cocksucker” tell the true story of Marines caught acting in gay porn. Now thru June 29. \$20 Wed.; \$25 Thu & Sun eve; \$35 Fri & Sat; \$20 Sun. matinee. 2926 16th St. (btwn Mission & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861-5079; [www.therhino.org](http://www.therhino.org)

### “Pride & Prejudice” @ Space 743

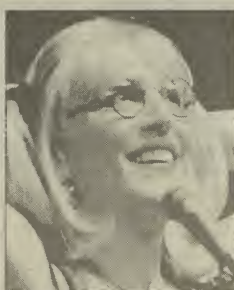
Opening reception: “Pride & Prejudice,” work by **David Faulk**, **Nancer Lemons**, **Mooshka** and **Dan Pillers**. The show examines the intersection of different forms of pride—national pride, gay pride, and personal pride, as well as of different forms of prejudice in the current American cultural/political climate. Curated by **Mia Capodilupo** and **Termeh Dimi Yeghiazarian**. Free. 5:30-7:30pm. Show runs thru June 28. 743 Harrison St. Info: 777-9080; [www.visualaid.org](http://www.visualaid.org)

### “Juneteenth” @ The Center

**Black Brothers Esteem** hold their “JUNETEENTH Celebration/Dance.” Free Food, Free Love, Free Music provided by **DJ Jamez L. Smith**. Free Admission! 7:30-10:30 pm. **Rainbow Room**, LGBTQ Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 487-8018 for more info.

### “Intercourse” @ The Center

NQAF Event: **Thea Hillman** presents “Intercourse: A Sex And Gender Recipe for Revolution,” two nights of performances about sex and gender from those whose very existence questions and challenges societal norms. Featuring **Leslie Feinberg** on Friday night and **Kate Bornstein** on Saturday night. With spoken word, hip hop, song, burlesque, and an occasional violin, “Intercourse” will raise awareness about our world, as well as build bridges within the queer community.



Kate Bornstein probes sex roles in “Intercourse” at The Center as part of the National Queer Arts Festival. See Friday.

Each evening will showcase a different cast of performers including **Ryka Aoki**, **Kate Bornstein**, **Cheryl Chase**, **Leslie Feinberg**, **Michelle Garcia**, **katastrophe** (rocco kaylitos), **Yoseñio V. Lewis**, **Joey Stephenson**, **Marcus Rene Van**, and **Hida Viloria**. Saturday performance **ASL** interpreted. \$5-\$50 sliding (NOTAFLOF). June 13-14. 8pm. **Ceremonial Room**, SF LGBTQ Community Center, 1800 Market St. Info/tix: 3340-Qcc; [www.queerculturalcenter.org](http://www.queerculturalcenter.org)

### “Ear/Reverence”

#### @ 848 Community Space

Percussionist/performer **Jim Santi Owen** of **Tabla Rasa** presents “Ear/Reverence,” two genre-defying evenings of new and traditional works. Tonight: multi-instrumentalist **Mark Growden**, tabla sensations **Tim Witter** and **Uttam Chakraborty**, Afro-Cuban percussionist **Javier Navarrete**, West African percussionist **Wade Peterson**, jazz drummer **Myron Cohen**, and guests. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 848 Community Art Space, 848 Divisadero (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info/reservations: email [info@jimsantiowen.com](mailto:info@jimsantiowen.com)

### “Married to Music” @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center presents “Married to Music,” an evening of cabaret music starring **Meg Mackay** and **Billy Philadelphia** (replaces the previously scheduled show “Taking a Chance on Love”). Hear this acclaimed duo perform in a cabaret setting—with no two-drink minimum! \$25 Fri, Sat; \$20 Sun matinee. 8pm (3pm Sun). Thru June 22. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-8972; [www.nctcsf.org](http://www.nctcsf.org)

### “Queer Swing Jive”

#### @ The Stud

Queer Jitterbugs presents “Queer Swing Jive,” with basic drop in progressive East Coast lesson at 6:30pm, intermediate moves for all levels at 7pm. \$5 lesson package. Free dancing 7:30-10pm. The Stud Bar, 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: 305-8242; [www.queerjitterbugs.com](http://www.queerjitterbugs.com)

### “Bad Reception”

#### @ ATA Gallery

Artists Television Access presents “Bad Reception: The Wireless Revolution in San Francisco” a chronicle of SF community resistance to the Telecom Industry, including the proliferation of wireless antennas to feed the booming use of cell phones throughout the city. Discussion with the producers and invited guests follows. \$5. Artists Television Access, 992 Valencia St.

### “Hair-trigger Heart”

#### @ Spanganga

“Hair-trigger Heart,” a play by **Ida Acton**. Starring **Shar Rednour** (Aunt Carlene), **Shoshana Von Blankensee** (Tammy Jean), **Jules Wilt** (Uncle Rabbit), **Marcy Coburn** (Daddy), and **Ida Acton** (Haskal J. Lonesome). It’s a tragicomic play that uses film, stills, and live music to tell the tale of the travels and tribulations of **Haskal J. Lonesome**. \$8-20 sliding. June 13 & 14. 7:30 pm (doors at 7). **Spanganga**, 3376 19th St. (btwn Mission & Capp). Tix: 841-8817.

### Karen X. Tulchinsky

#### @ Boadecia’s Books

**Karen X. Tulchinsky** (*In Her Nature*, the *Hot & Bothered* series, and others) visits from Canada to read from her new book *Love and Other Ruins*, which features the further adventures of **Nomi** and her cousin, **Henry** (first encountered in *Love Ruins Everything*). Free. 7:30 pm. **Boadecia’s Books**, 398 Colusa Ave., Kensington. Info: 510-559-9184; [www.bookpride.com](http://www.bookpride.com)

## Sat 14

### SF Bike Coalition “Queer History Tour”

The SF Bicycle Coalition and the GLBT Historical Society invite all to celebrate Pride Month with a tour of SF’s queer neighborhoods from the 1930s to the present. Visit sites of queer community and resistance, including the site of the California Hall riot and infamous drinking and carousing spots like the **Black Cat**, **Ringold Alley**, and **Maud’s Last Call**. Tour starts at **Justin Herman Plaza** (Market & Embarcadero), ends at **Wildside West** in **Bernal Heights**. Post-ride drinks & socializing. Free. 11am-3pm. Info: email [tours@sf-bike.org](mailto:tours@sf-bike.org)

### “Eureka Speakeasy”

#### @ Eureka Ferryboat

Dress up in your best dapper or flapper outfit and join **MAX**, **BACW**, and **GGBA** at the “**Eureka Speakeasy**,” a benefit prohibition-era casino party to benefit **Shanti**, the nonprofit organization serving people with HIV/AIDS, breast cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Blackjack, crap tables, slot machines, silent auction, raffle, music by **DJ Clay**, and live cabaret by **John McCullough** and **Houston Allred**. \$20 donation to **Shanti**; gaming money may be purchased at event. 8pm casino opens; 9pm cabaret; 10:30pm auction closes; 11pm raffle drawing. **Eureka Ferryboat**, docked at **Hyde Street Pier**, near **The Cannery**.

### Christian McLaughlin

#### @ The Center

The **Harvey Milk** Institute presents a reading and clips screening by author/scriptwriter **Christian McLaughlin**, drawing from his infamous collection of bizarre stuff and commenting on the cheesiness of **Pop** and **Hollywood** culture. **McLaughlin** has written for *Married...With Children* and the first daytime soap for cable, *Spyder Games*, plus the novels *Glamourpuss* and *Sex Toys of the Gods*. \$10-\$15 sliding. 7pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBTQ Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; [www.harveymilk.org](http://www.harveymilk.org)

### “Ear/Reverence”

#### @ 848 Community Space

Night two of **Jim Santi Owen’s** “Ear/Reverence,” featuring Italian tambourine virtuoso **Alessandra Belloni**, **Charlotte Moraga** and **Jaiwanti Pammnani** (principal dancers of the **Chitresh Das Dance Company**), dancer extraordinaire **Rachel Lincoln** and special guests. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 848 Community Art Space, 848 Divisadero (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info/reservations: email [info@jimsantiowen.com](mailto:info@jimsantiowen.com)

### Steven Underhill

#### @ ADL Bookstore

Join photographer **Steven Underhill** and the models from his latest photo book, *Happy2gether*, a celebration of gay youth. Free. 1pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St.

### Leslie Feinberg

#### @ Women’s Building

Author **Leslie Feinberg** (*Stone Butch Blues*, *Transgender Warriors* and others), managing editor of *Workers’ World*, the weekly socialist newspaper, speaks on “**LGBT Liberation through Reform and Revolution**.” An afternoon celebration of **LGBT** pride and remembrance of the **Stonewall** Rebellion. Follow her history of the origins of sexual oppression and the fight against it, discover unsung pioneers and heroes of the **Queer Movement**. Sponsored by **Workers’ World Party**. Free. 12:30 pm. **Women’s Building**, 3543 - 18th St. Info: 826-4828; email [sf@workers.org](mailto:sf@workers.org).

### “EG: (r)Evolution of Gender”

#### @ SomArts Rear Gallery

NQAF Event: **Visual Arts Exhibition** Guided Tour & Discussion: “EG: (r)Evolution of Gender.” Curators





Faux Queen 2002 Anita Cocktail wreaks havoc at Slim's this Sunday at Klubstute's annual "Faux Queen Pageant." See "Calendare."

Elit K. Daughtry and Kriss De Jong of Killer Banshee Studios guide you through a tour of their visual arts exhibition, and spark a discussion of gender identity in the queer community. 55. 3-5pm. SomArts/Rear Gallery, 934 Brannan St. between 8th and 9th. Qcc Tix/info: 3340-Qcc; www.queerculturalcenter.org

**'Fauxgirls!' @ Marlena's**  
Victoria Secret is joined by the fabulous Alexandria in hosting "Fauxgirls!" drag cabaret showcasing glamour & camp, featuring Mini Minerva, Davida, Marlena Phoenix, Daffney Deluxe, Chanel & guests. No cover. 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672; www.sfdrag.com

## Sun 15

### 'Pretty in Plastic' @ Glama-Rama!

Opening party: LA-based artist/actor SHAM unveils "Pretty in Plastic," digital portrait of well-known celebrity bombshells, plastic surgery disasters, famous drag queens, and underground legends including David La Chapelle, model Amanda LePore, LA billboard goddess Angelique, and many more. Free. 6-9pm. 417 South Van Ness Ave. (at 15th St.).

### 'Lavender Lounge' @ Bench & Bar, Oakland

An early evening club/lounge for women 30 and over, "Lavender Lounge" features salsa, merengue, reggae/dance hall, old & new R&B, a tropical atmosphere, restaurant, and plenty of tables & chairs. \$10. 5-10pm. Every 3rd Sunday. 120-11th St., Oakland. Info: lavender\_lounge@yahoo.com

### 'Hubbub'

#### @ Hyena Comedy Center

"Hubbub: Queer Spoken Word" with featured readers Ian Phillips and more. Hosted by Larry-bob. \$1-\$3 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Signup at 2:30 pm, reading at 3 pm. Hyena Playhouse, 2390 Mission Street, Suite #10 [basement, elevator accessible] cross street: 20th (if gate is locked, go around to the side entrance).

## Mon 16

### 'QComedy Showcase' @ The Center

Special "QComedy Showcase" featuring LA-based comedians Stephanie Howard and Beth Sherman, plus host Nick Leonard. Howard just returned from an Olivia Cruises trip where she performed with Margaret Cho and Suzanne Westenhoefer. She starred on Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" in Dec. 2002, and is known for her dry wit and alternative humor. Sherman has written for TV and is the author of 101 Damns, One Nation, Extra Cheese, and Rough Draft: Pop Culture the Way It Almost Was. \$10-\$15 sliding. 7pm doors; 8pm

show. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org; www.QComedy.org

### 'Crookedletta'

#### @ Black Box, Oakland

"Crookedletta: A/Celebration of Pride," hosted by Tim'm and Bushma, featuring Marvin K. White, Hanifah Walidah, and Deep Dickollective ("BourgieBohoPostPomoAfroHomo," "Them Niggas Done Went And Said"), plus Philip Huang, Jen-Ro, MC Mitch, Sergio, Toshia Christal, Tim Arevalo, Exodus, and Shannon Matesky. \$10. 8pm doors; 8:30pm showtime. Black Box, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. Info: jubakalamka@hotmail.com

## Tue 17

### Hanifah Walidah

#### @ Jon Sims Center

Brava Theater Center presents poet, musician, and actress Hanifah Walidah, performing "Straight Black Folks' Guide to Gay Black Folks," her highly praised multi-character one-woman show. The place is Anyblock, USA, where Dee runs the neighborhood daycare and takes care of all the 9-5 mama's babies; the Cheatam clan runs the Friday fish-fry; Top Pop is the elder (nobody knows how old exactly), Cuzin' Puddin' is a social worker and Top Pop's favorite manchild. Just down the block is the street is the Church of Love Everlasting with Pastor Ebonise Preeds. At the end of the block is The Last Stop, where Ms. Invincible stands on a soap box that reads "Say Yo' Peace" and speaks to the one who counts the stars. \$10-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. Also on Thurs., June 19. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & S. Van Ness). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

### 'Queer Women of Color Film Night' @ The Center

NQAF event: Celebrate the art, culture and resistance of queer women of color and their communities through film and video. Join in actualizing social justice. Curated by QWoCf creator Darshan Elena Campos. Free. 8pm. Rainbow Room, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. Tix/info: 334-0722; www.queerculturalcenter.org

### 'Adoption Options'

#### @ Harvey Milk Library

"GLBT Adoption Options," a lecture for GLBT people to discuss adoption options, resources and experiences, with Kaija Langley, Community Outreach Worker for Family Builders by Adoption, Aimee Fisher, Program Coordinator for Our Family Coalition and Family Builder gay and lesbian couples in celebration of June Pride month. Free. 7pm. Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library, 3555 16th St. (near Market).

## Wed 18

### 'Behind the Makeup' @ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute presents "Behind the Makeup: Drag Kings & 1 Faux Queen," in which talk-show hostess KevinTaffyJane (Kevin Schaub) probes into the annals of drag-king/faux queen history with performance celebrities Fudgie Frottage, Arty Fishal, Rusty Hips, Howie Weenis & Cricket Bardot. Part interview, part talk show, part audience participation. \$10-\$15 sliding. 7pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

### 'Ecstasy of Shiva' @ Sweet's Ballroom, Oakland

Gay poet and mystical activist Andrew Harvey, musician and teacher of the Yoga of Sound Russell Paul, and spinner of magical music DJ Dragonfly present "The Ecstasy of Shiva," a 4-hour journey of yoga chanting, Indian devotional music, passionate poetry and ecstatic dance grooves to benefit the University of Creation Spirituality and Naropa University. 7-11pm. Historic Sweet's Ballroom, 1933 Broadway (near 19th St. BART), Oakland. Info: www.yogaofsound.org

## Thu 19

### Joe Goode @ YBCA

NQAF Event: The Joe Goode Performance Group presents the world premiere of *Folk* and the return of *Transparent Body*. *Folk*, part 2 of Goode's *Mythic, Montana* trilogy, is a profound examination of the American West, where ordinary people often have extraordinary spirits and stories. \$20-\$35. 8pm. Thu-Sun thru June 29. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St. Tix/info: 978-ARTS; www.yerbabuenaarts.org

### Howard Roffman

#### @ The Center

The Harvey Milk Institute present photographer Howard Roffman, represented by the Wessel + O'Connor Gallery in New York, who has published seven books of photographs, including *Friends & Lovers*, *Jagged Youth*, *Johan Paulik*, and *Edge of Desire*. His work has been widely published on cards, in calendars, and in magazines. \$10-\$15 sliding. 7pm reception; 8pm show. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

### 'Dualities'

#### @ Jon Sims Center

NQAF Event; JSC Lecture Presentation: "Dualities: Looking at meXicana/o images of gender," by scholar, painter, performance artist Tepehuan/Xicana and artist Celia Herrera Rodriguez (UC Berkeley Chicano Studies program). \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

### 'It's Elementary'

#### @ Main Library

Screening: "It's Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School" (1996, 77 min.), a film that demystifies what it means to talk with kids about gay people. It makes a compelling argument that anti-gay prejudice and violence can be prevented if children have an opportunity to have these discussions when they're young. Directed by Debra Chasnoff. Free. 12 Noon. All ages. Main Library, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin Street (at Grove).

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# Opium of the masses

## Religious music for the secular at heart

by Tim Pfaff

As the world suicides frenetically over matters of faith, finding succor in religious music becomes harder for the religiously unaffiliated. For those of us denominationally challenged listeners, Requiems have assumed a new — what to call it? — appeal. I find myself pulling them off the shelf almost instinctively these days. Recently, the music establishment has obliged with two new CDs that are genuinely uplifting and sustaining. They feature works that are manifestly spiritual without being faith-based.



Charles Mackerras' new recording of Mozart's Requiem (Linn), in the Robert Levin completion of the work the composer didn't live to complete, is at last a performance that fully fleshes out in sound what Levin has achieved on paper. Philippe Herreweghe's Schubert A-Flat Major Mass (Harmonia Mundi) similarly gives this mature work (a significant step beyond Schubert's earlier Masses) the currency it deserves.

What makes both pieces seem so (perish the word) relevant today is that, without casting aspersions on their content, merit, or, God forbid, sincerity, neither was composed as a religious testament, at least not like that of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* (written at the same time as the Schubert, which also bears the title *Missa Solemnis*). Both were composed on commissions (paltry enough at that) that both young but dying composers desperately needed. (That odious palliative, "The poor are always with us," seldom takes account of the likes of

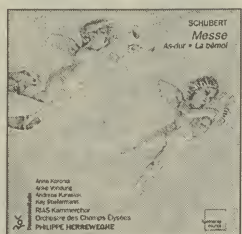
Mozart and Schubert among them.) The program note makes two salient observations about the Schubert: that he revised and refined it more than perhaps any other of his works — and that its Credo deliberately omits the lines about belief in the Catholic Church. These two works may not be opiates, but both receive intoxicating performances.

With the Mozart, the wonder is that, over the decade since its first recording in the Levin edition, by Helmuth Rilling, it has been recorded or performed in any other version. Oddly, the same crowd that greets Levin's celebrated performances of the Mozart piano concertos with improvised cadenzas in perfect Mozart style as something like the true stigmata in music have in the same breath spurned Levin's completion of the Requiem as if it were heresy. In fact, Levin's contribution is a notably conservative (if staggeringly brilliant) piece of musicology that sets no ambition beyond putting right the numerous stylistic errors of the previous completions. Levin literally knows every note of Mozart and has fully internalized his style.

Of the conductors who have embraced Levin's completion, Mackerras has most fully brought it to life. This exemplary, versatile conductor has not always done his most convincing work in 18th-century music, but this recording, with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Chorus (which Mackerras gets to sound like a period band), burns with conviction. The brisk tempos are at first shocking, but the urgency they lend the reading are as swiftly convincing; they cauterize all traces of piety or sentimentality that might seep in. Mackerras bores his way through the score not as if death were at his heels (though he's aging and in unsteady health) but as if everything in it were hurtling toward the *Lux Aeterna*, the vaulted light the dying "go into."

I mean it as the highest praise that nothing about the performance stands out. The vocal soloists — Susan Gritton, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Timothy Robinson, and Peter Rose — the chorus and band are uniformly fine. More to the point, all are undivided

in their attention to this sublime score.



### Trial by fire

Herreweghe and his crew — the Orchestre des Champs Elysees, RIAS-Kammerchor, and vocal soloists Anna Korondi, Anke Vondung, Andreas Karasiak, and Ray Stieffermann — give Schubert the supreme melodist his due, but their interpretation, too, digs deep. In their reading, the A-Flat Major Mass, D 678, is insolent and creepy as often as solemn and noble (and it is, at times, all four). There's never a sense of easy piety or reflexive reverence about it.

They rightly find the real action in the Credo, with its resplendent but ominous brass and harmony so tight it sometimes gives the illusion of the choir's singing in unison. This is no easy statement of received faith but, rather, a musical acting out of the trials of belief. The progression from the foreboding "Et incarnatus est" through the "Crucifixus" and "Resurrexit" becomes an intermittently dissonant trial by fire that could have been written only by a composer who knew, intimately, the path of suffering.

As in the great song cycles, the moments of joy and triumph are amply real, but fleeting. Passages in the Sanctus sound like a study for Wagner's *Das Rheingold*. This is faith without formula, and hugely rewarding for it.

Both "fillers" are treasures. Mackerras' reading of Mozart's late C-Minor Adagio and Fugue accents its almost alarming modernity, and Mendelssohn's Psalm 42, accompanying the Schubert, boasts the kind of involving beauty you nearly drown in. ▼

## Penisspotting

◀ page 37

love, including interviews with immigrant dildo workers, dildo magnates, a hung guy who provides a model, and the crazy Texan politicians who criminalized them (possessing six or more is a felony). Yes, yes, we realize these are not *real* dicks, but do they really deserve our scorn? We would remind grumblers that they perform most of the same services as our more organic purple-headed pal (and better, according to some aficionados.)

### Wrong delivery

Some of this year's films will frustrate dickticians who feel (rightly or wrongly) that titles or subjects that promise penis should deliver. (There is, sadly, no recourse here; you cannot complain to the Better Business Bureau about truth in advertising. Trust us, we've tried.) Billy Hayes' raw drama *Cock & Bull Story* is more bull than cock, despite the fact that the movie is about (possibly)

closeted boxers who get all sweaty, sexy and mean. Jason Schafer's *Totally Sexy Loser* is not sexy, and there is no dick. Todd Ahlberg's worthy doc *Hooked*, about Internet sex addiction, would have been improved, from the spotter's perspective, by at least a brief montage showing exactly what all these guys are getting so hot and bothered about. The same could be said for Louise Hogarth's *The Gift*, about "bug chasing" and "gift giving." Mark Rucker's *Die Mommie Die!* makes much of Jason Priestley's character's super-schlong, but alas, there's not even a prosthetic prick on view to back up the claims. In the *Manly Men* shorts show, Michael Shea's *Ritchie's Itch* has two supposedly straight guys talking endlessly about cock but never showing their own, despite constant threats to do so.

Fortunately, the French don't fail to deliver. No one can beat them for phallophilia, and there are juicy, if sometimes heart-breakingly abbreviated, sightings in several of the features. In Fabrice Cazeneuve's excellent *You'll*

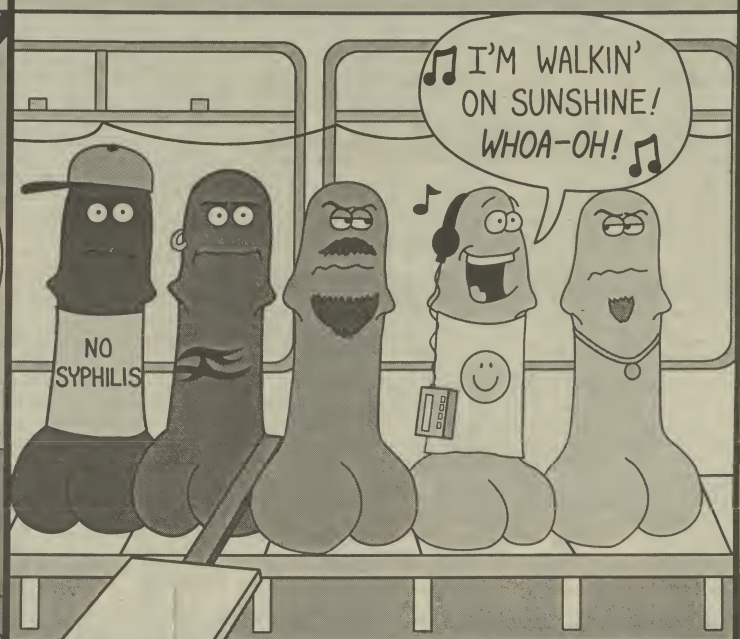
*Get Over It*, there's a shadowy schlong in the mirror, but its possessor is so adorable that more imaginative viewers will invent more such images. Christophe Honore's *Close to Leo* gets points for a nude beach swim, complete with casual cock, with three pals and the little brother of one of them. Francis Girod's overwrought but intriguing *Gender Bias* shows an abusive, rough-trade type in the altogether, cruelly displaying his jewels in a window for the horny drag queen staring at him from afar. Jacques Nolot hits the jackpot with *Porn Theatre*, a wonderfully wry drama set in the seedy title space. Opera glasses are not a must for this one; even cataracts won't prevent some of these extremely sexy images, which include oral and anal penetration, from getting through to anxious penisspotters. ▼



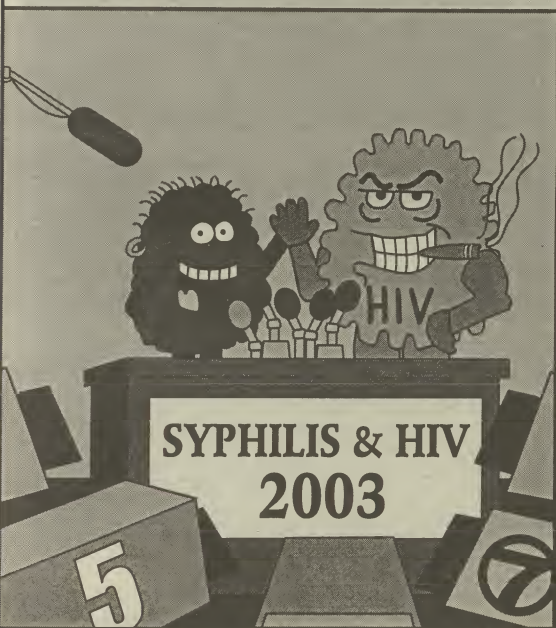
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# Get your flame on!

## Ggreg Taylor's 'Forgotten Opera' party unfolds

by Mark Mardon

Some people are flames, and some are moths," says Ggreg Taylor, the ultimate party promoter of the 1990s Queer Nation/Klubstitute generation in San Francisco, the creator of Product and other club hits. "I've always been a flame. Some people are totally oblivious."

Soon, no-one in the city will be oblivious to the return of Taylor to the scene he works with flair. In his new, improved persona, he doesn't just do boy parties with kinky twists, he does glamorous operatic spectacles. Witness his *Forgotten Opera*, a costume ball sponsored by the San Francisco Opera, taking place this Saturday, June 14, at a giant warehouse space South of Market.

"I've been wanting to do a party for a while, to get back into the club thing," says Taylor, who upon his return from self-imposed exile in London not long ago realized he had become mythologized. Not since the crazy heyday of Chaos, Uranus, and Product, in Taylor's view, has the city seen a truly outrageous party replete with costumes, props, and art, combined with major DJ talent and the ultra-hip queer crowd that flocks to Tay-

lor's flame.

"The opera's audience is graying and dying off," declares Taylor. "They want to do something that will make opera cool. I think opera's fantastic. I mean, when you have 100 people onstage in nude suits as witches' covens, and the men have two-foot-long penises, and the women have these giant, pendulous breasts, and they're worshipping the moon? It's pretty cool!"

When Taylor proposed to SF Opera doing a party using the Opera's sets, props and costumes, and having an opera singer sing live, "they were terrified," he says. Somehow, he calmed their fears and got them excited. To create a special vibe, Taylor has obtained a giant SoMa warehouse zoned legally for this sort of party, a big, raw space he intends to fill up with "huge sets" and some 20 chandeliers, hoping to attract as many as 1,500 costumed revelers. To create the right sound, he's working with DJ Gavin Hardkiss. They've been going over hundreds of songs looking for a good hook. He suspects they'll end up doing a house remix of a Mozart aria, or something along those lines. They plan to have an opera diva sing live. Also playing at the gig are Jenö, doing a four-hour set up stairs, and Ouchy the Clown and

Pinky Ring, spinning indie sounds downstairs.

### Come together

The main reason he's doing all this, Taylor says, is that "I really love getting people together. I love getting people to actually talk. I won't do a dance club that doesn't have an area to talk in. I think the gay community really needs something now where you can meet friends and it's not about drugs."

Can he pull it off? His track record would indicate he can indeed, with diva splendor. He's been associated with many of the city's legendary queer clubs and parties of the late '80s and early '90s. And even his mother thinks he's a hoot.

He hails originally from Northern Idaho, "you know, land of the white supremacists. Which it really is. Mom's a big-titted bleach blonde who's charming as hell, and she likes bad boys. She's been doing drag since Club Uranus. She's hosted Trannyshack. We did 'Mammyshack'."

After moving to SF by way of Seattle, Taylor ended up in a party house with the Page Boys, notably Lewis Walden, who created Chaos with Michael Blue, and eventually ran Club Uranus.

"We were wild!" Taylor says of the household. "The underground club scene was born out of our house parties at Page & Octavia. They were these huge, raging parties. This was 1988, and AIDS had decimated San Francisco. Everyone was dead. The only club to go to was The Stud. There was nothing else, except for parties at the Trocadero or Dreamland, but that was old '70s clones, and who wanted to be around some guy with poppers and a tambourine?"

In fact, there were other clubs happening. The first once-a-week club was called Boy Club, which Ben Dong put on at the I-Beam. Page Hotel started The Box, and then Chaos was born. Taylor began to make his indelible mark on queer culture.

The biggest shock waves in the club scene would come at the Endup, which, at the time, Taylor says, was "this weird bar that needed to be taken over and had no business at all. It had a small Asian demographic and a wet jockey-shorts contest that was



Randal Alan Smith

Ggreg Taylor in an ordinary moment, with muse Ouchy the Clown at rear.

kind of pathetic."

They threw the first Club Uranus party on December 14, 1989, and "my mother described it as being the obvious sign of the end of Western Civilization. I mean, Monique, this giant-breasted go-go girl, was dancing on the go-go box banging herself with a banana, while her mother read the Bible by the fire in the back of the club. Can you imagine?!"

### Clown alley

Taylor most often was seen in public decked out in his wild, multi-hued, art-damaged clown faces and garbs, his persona that of the ringmaster for the zaniest, sexiest shows the queer underground scene ever conjured up.

His co-emcee at Uranus was the inimitable Jerome Caja, the person who more than anyone defined queer art — scatological, sacrilegious, lipstick-smeared — who reveled in displaying his skinny limbs and frame in tattered outfits, mud-wrestling with other trannies as Queer Nation boys cheered on.

Taylor insists that if not for Uranus bringing in new clientele, the Endup would no longer exist. The club started hopping at the same time as ACT UP got going, and drew that kind of fierce energy to it.

"I remember going to ACT UP meetings and trying to figure out what to wear," he says. "For my first ACT UP meeting, I went in mirrored platforms, rhinestone hotpants, and a fur vest."

Trend-observers often compare Taylor's eye-popping style to that of Leigh Bowery, the outrageous London performance artist, but "I never had a fashion designer or someone who could sew," says Taylor, "so my shit was always glued together and ridiculous, until I started running a giant mainstream club and could pay \$1,000."

His full-leather NAMBLA the Clown outfit cost around \$2,000.

It's that identity which has brought Taylor the most notoriety, as he uses the NAMBLA label to mock straight society's worst fears. "The reason NAMBLA the Clown exists is because so much of straight, homophobic society assumes all gay people are child molesters, and we aren't! So why not throw the darkest thing right back at them?"

One of the first big parties Taylor produced on his own was at 1015 Folsom, called *The Drag USO Show*, during the 6th International AIDS Conference. ACT UP was in town demonstrating, so Taylor did a USO-style show to entertain the troops. He had Lady Bunny in from New York, and Vaginal Creme Davis, Glenn Meadmore, and the Sluts-a-Go-Go. Taylor eventually launched Product at 1015 Folsom, taking the queer art aesthetic to new heights of success.

### Lav hostess

"I did great stuff," he says of producing Product. "I had this homeless lady playing guitar in the men's toilet; I called it the Men's Restroom and Entertainment Complex." A drag queen served as maitre d' of the toilet. He'd ask anyone entering: "A urinal or a stall? Party of one or two?" On one occasion, Taylor hired the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band to march through the club. "Can you imagine being in a dance club, and the music stops and a marching band marches through? Like, huh?"

Those sorts of antics eventually led him to work with Gilbert Baker and others in creating "Pink Saturday," the pre-Pride party in the Castro. The idea came together over the dinner table in the home of medical-marijuana guru Dennis Perone. "I was really the one involved to make it hip, because I was the 'It Boy' in SF at the time."

Starting in 1994, the scene lost

page 47 ►

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## Safety Information

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.

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# Free spirits roaming on a small island

Director Emanuele Crialese's 'Respiro' has Italian warmth and charm

by David Lamble

In the opening frames of *Respiro*, the sight of rocks bleached bone-white by a pitiless sun yields to the face of a boy firing a slingshot. At first, we're not sure what century the boy is living in, or whether he and his nearly naked mates are fleeing the cameras of Baron von Gloeden, or living out their own version of *Lord of the Flies* or the sacrifice of St. Sebastian. This little primitive tribe swarms over the rocks, cooks their prey in cinderblock ruins, meets and overcomes a smaller tribe. The losers have their shorts pulled down in frisky non-lethal horseplay.

The boy, Pasquale (a brooding, raw intuitive performance by Francesco Casisa, a young man discovered in the slums of Palermo), rides home with his younger brother, Filippo (the pint-sized Filippo Pucillo, playing the world's most macho 10-year-old), to the waiting arms of their mother, Grazia. As Grazia, Valeria Golino, whom American audiences may remember as Tom Cruise's pesky Italian girlfriend in *Rain Man*, here channels the iridescent glow and spunk of the young Sophia Loren.

The boys' passionate but vexed love for their mother, the black sheep of their small island, is at the heart of Emanuele Crialese's reconfiguration of the myth of a



Vincenzo Amato as Pietro, Valeria Golino as Grazia, Francesco Casisa as Pasquale in *Respiro*.

free-spirited woman who defies the rigid conventions of a pre-modern society.

Grazia is an affectionate but impulsive woman. Her daughter backstops her cooking chores in one scene, serving the boys glop that has the gelatin-like consistency of catfood. Grazia's mood swings are exacerbated by any

threat to her sons. When her husband Pietro (Vincenzo Amato, un-self-consciously masculine as a vexed but loving patriarch) whips Pasquale for hurting a boy with his slingshot, Grazia wrecks their kitchen in a fury that turns into a fit. As Pietro sedates Grazia, his no-nonsense mother urges him to send her to a sanitarium in

Milan.

## Rough passage

In the film's iconic image, Grazia is riding the scooter with her sons, gently nuzzling Pasquale's neck as they head for the ocean. In this resolutely non-neurotic society, familial affection and punishment is not to mistaken for incest

or abuse. Pasquale and Filippo are both agitated and ashamed when Grazia insists on swimming braless. They are already pint-sized versions of their father, about to pass from rough play to adulthood, skipping adolescence altogether.

Director Crialese (whose first feature, *Once We Were Strangers*, gave him credibility with *Respiro*'s Italian producers) cradles his story lovingly on the island of Lampedusa, an Italian outpost so far South that it's practically in Africa. In America, a place so beautiful would be the setting for bad melodrama — or a beer commercial.

In *Respiro*, Golino's Grazia represents trouble in paradise. She flirts with foreign men, fights with other women, and sets the village's feral dogs loose from the pound. Only her beautiful, brooding son, Pasquale, sees beyond his mother's sins.

Just as the love for a boy can pass from aesthetic to taboo, Pasquale's feelings for his mother push him to quietly and unconsciously defy the customs that have preserved the peace on his tiny island for centuries. Early in the story, we see Pasquale swimming through the pure blue water to trap an elusive sea creature. Later, that water will represent an exhilarating and dangerous freedom for the boy, his mother, and an island that time forgot. ▼

Opens Friday.

## PATIENT INFORMATION

### SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)

[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

**ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.**

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA." Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

#### What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

#### What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

**Serious psychiatric problems.** A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

**Common side effects.** Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime on an empty stomach. They also tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you are dizzy, have trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

**Rash is common.** Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. **Changes in body fat.** Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA. Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

#### R ONLY

#### How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

##### General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doses may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.

##### Capsules

- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see Can children take SUSTIVA?).

##### Tablets

- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

##### Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

##### Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

##### What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant. Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they also use other methods of birth control.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

##### Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.

#### What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.
- Bring all your prescription and non-prescription medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.
- Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

#### MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
- The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA:
- Fortovase®
- Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

#### General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-428-7544.

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## TELEVISION

# Flag-waving in the 'hood

## Community 'Flag Wars' on PBS' 'P.O.V.'

by Gregg Shapiro

With *Flag Wars*, documentary filmmakers Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Poitras have touched on a subject well-known to the queer community, but which has yet to reach the mainstream television-viewing audience. The topic, gentrification of deteriorating urban communities by gay men and lesbians, is given an effective treatment in their *P.O.V.* documentary for PBS, which airs Tuesday, June 17, 10 p.m. on KQED-TV, Channel 9.

The title takes on more than one meaning. First, it refers to the rainbow flags that hang outside some LGBT homes, and the response to them by the non-gay residents in a Columbus, Ohio neighborhood. It also refers to the ominous presence of right-wing Christian activists, and the burning of a rainbow flag that had been flying outside the Ohio Statehouse for Gay Pride. I spoke with Bryant and Poitras about their collaboration.

Gregg Shapiro: What's the source of your interest in *Flag Wars*?

Linda Goode Bryant: I'm from Columbus, Ohio, and it actually started when I went back home to



Filmmakers Poitras and Bryant

be on a panel there. My parents bought their house in 1946 and still live in the community. My father picked me up from the airport, and we were driving back to the house, and as we turned onto our street, I noticed that there were pastel flags hanging from a couple of porches. I asked him, "What's up with these flags?" He said, "That's what the gay guys put up when they move in."

I came back to New York, and Laura and I were having lunch, and I mentioned that experience. She said, "Linda, that's what Deanna and I are doing," because

she had just moved to Harlem.

Laura Poitras: Deanna was my partner. I said, "Linda, what are you talking about? Look at my apartment." I lived in a building where most of the residents were elderly blacks and women, and everyone moving in was young, white, gay and lesbian.

It stuck with both of us, and we thought it would make a really interesting documentary. The question that we wanted to explore was how two groups that are both marginalized in larger society will try and live together.

What was it like to get people who were at odds with each other to cooperate with you on the film?

LP: When Linda and I started making the film in 1999, we began by doing a series of interviews with people who we thought were important to be in the film. We told them what we were interested in, a neighborhood that was going through changes, and how these two groups, the black community and the white gay community, co-exist. Everyone agreed to participate, and people were very forthcoming and incredibly honest and generous in opening their lives to us and our cameras.

It's a trend going on in urban areas, largely white gays and les-



Gays hang rainbow flags in a non-gay neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio.

bians are moving into neighborhoods that have been economically depressed and usually have a nice Victorian housing stock available at low costs. You can see it in Chicago, Atlanta, Asbury Park, New Jersey. There are many reasons for it. The gay community, unlike straight whites, has a real interest in finding a community where they can establish themselves and be among other gays and lesbians. I think the fact that often gay couples don't have children makes these neighborhoods attractive. And I think the housing stock, being able to go in and renovate these houses, is another factor that comes into play.

The most frightening aspect of *Flag Wars* is the substory of the fundamentalist Christian preacher, Chuck Spingola, and his anti-

rainbow flag and anti-gay crusade. The film's focus shifts from being about the longtime residents and the gays moving in, to this man who appears to be part of Fred Phelps' army.

LP: The gay residents of the neighborhood participated in the Gay Pride parade, and we followed them. We were on the float and filming them in the parade, and there was this protest from a Christian Right minister. We heard later that he had shimmied up the flagpole at the Statehouse where a rainbow flag hung, taken the flag down and burned it, and was arrested. Here we were making this film called *Flag Wars*. It seemed like even though he wasn't from the neighborhood, he inserted himself into our story.

LGB: I think the film clearly reveals intolerance from everybody. There is a certain intolerance that gays have for the beliefs and values of the African Americans in that neighborhood. There's a certain intolerance that these African Americans have for the beliefs and values of gays. There's an intolerance that Chuck has that he rationalizes based on his interpretation of the Bible.

I learned over the course of the nine months that we spent filming him, his family and his colleagues, that Chuck was not one-dimensional. He was as multi-dimensional as all of us are. As a result of understanding, though not agreeing, with Chuck, I ceased to be frightened by him. ▼

# The good, the bad, & the Bette

## Bette Midler is a diva who is out on DVD, 16 times

by Tavo Amador

Bette Midler (b. 1945) is one of the great comic film actresses of the last 25 years, as well as an accomplished singer. Her career, however, has been marred by poor choices and poor direction. Sixteen Midler DVDs are currently available, and here's a rundown of what to expect.

Although she had a tiny role in *Hawaii* (1965), Midler's real screen debut came in 1979's *The Rose*, in which she played a rock singer modeled on Janis Joplin. She earned a Best Actress Oscar nomination and won two Golden Globes for her remarkable performance—at once winning and repellent, a true *monstre sacré*. Twenty-four years later, it's still a powerful portrait, helped by the star's willingness not to be likable at all times.

*Divine Madness* (1980), a filmed Midler concert, shows what made her such an irreverent icon of patrons of gay bathhouses in New York during the '70s. Her first opportunity to display her comedic brilliance as an actress came in 1986's *Down and Out in Beverly Hills*. This remake of the French *Bondu Saved from Drowning* shows the impact rescuing a homeless man (Nick Nolte) has on a wealthy couple (Midler and Richard Dreyfus). It's inspired, and Midler is hilarious and touching. Director Paul Mazursky missed a chance for total madness by not letting Midler and Little Richard, who has a supporting role, sing together.

Two more films capture Midler's brilliance and gave her worthy material: 1986's *Ruthless People* and '96's *First Wives Club*. In the former, she's a wealthy heiress



Great comic actress, poor choices.

married to Danny De Vito. When she's kidnapped and held for ransom, he refuses to pay, in hopes she'll be killed and he will be free to marry his gorgeous mistress (Anita Morris). To Midler's chagrin, the kidnappers keep dropping their price. This comic gem is based on O. Henry's short story, "The Ransom of Red Chief."

In *First Wives Club*, Midler, Goldie Hawn, and Diane Keaton are divorcees getting revenge on their ex-husbands. It's an ensemble film, with fine support from Maggie Smith as a society columnist. The three ladies are all terrific, yet Midler's portrayal may be the best of them all.

Two other comedies gave her fine co-stars, but had script problems. Shelley Long is Midler's rival for Peter Coyote in *Outrageous Fortune* (1987), and the ladies almost spin gold from dross, but can't save the picture. They do have one truly hilarious scene, comparing their sexual histories and appeal to men. She and Lily Tomlin were better than their material in *Big Business*

(1988), playing twins separated at birth and raised as siblings. The premise is clever, but the film runs out of gas too soon.

For the rest, avoid the bathetic *Beaches* (1988), an endless tsunami of the ups and downs of a friendship between two women (Midler and Barbara Hershey). Maudlin is the best that can be said of *Stella* (1990), a remake of the old Barbara Stanwyck weepie, *Stella Dallas*. Why Midler wanted to film this dated disaster about an unwed mother is a question she probably still hasn't answered.

Mark Rydell's poor direction ruined 1991's *For the Boys*, which could have been marvelous. Midler is a '40s singer who marries an established entertainer (James Caan); together, they perform for the troops and battle out their relationship. She handles the music superbly, but Caan is the least likely song-and-dance man imaginable and too old for the role. As Midler ages, her makeup becomes grotesque, and she is given a dowager hump that a dromedary would envy. She seemed to glory in the bathos, and earned a second Best Actress nomination from the Academy.

Midler teamed with Woody Allen for Mazursky's *Scenes from a Mall* (1991), a disappointment for all concerned—she was too toned down, and he seems stunned to be with a woman only 10 years younger. On television, she played Mama Rose in *Gypsy* (1993), but instead of the stage mother from hell, she again sought to be likable, and the production was flat. In *Hocus Focus* (1993), she and Kathy Najimy had fun playing witches, and Midler got to wear grotesque makeup again. *That Old Feeling* (1997) was what she got for ex-husband

Dennis Farina in another poorly written romantic comedy that wasted her talents. *Isn't She Great* (2000) had her miscast as '60s schlock writer Jacqueline Susann. The less said about her misguided reunion with De Vito in *Drowning Mona* (2000), another badly written comedy, the better. ▼

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# Summer fun on the way

by Mister Marcus

ML 2003 is history. The 25th anniversary of our longest running leather gathering was a success and a new leather icon from Great Britain has been chosen, with two American runners-up. The leather tribe is now set to find out who will be the next IMsL, International Leather Sir and boy, Ms. World, and all the rest.

Last weekend in Orlando, Florida, it was another California sweep at the Mr. and Ms. International Deaf Leather 2003 contest when Mr. San Diego Deaf Leather Juan Zazueta and Ms. San Diego Deaf Leather Renata Millet became Mr. and Ms. International Deaf Leather on Friday, June 6th. You may recall that Mr. Zazueta ranked fourth in the Top 20 at IML.

With that behind us, now the International Leather Sir and boy contests are in full swing. This weekend (June 13-15) in New York City, the second of the regional contests takes place: the Northeast Leather Sir/boy competition. It is being produced by Mike Marino and Connie Cox and will be held at The Slide (356 Bowery St. at East 4th Street) at 2100. Porn maven Will Clark will be the master of ceremonies with goodie bags for attendees, raffle prizes and entertainment. The winners will advance to compete at the finals in St. Petersburg, Florida in October.

Locally, the cycle for the Northern California Leather Sir/boy titles begins this Saturday night, June 14 in Guerneville in the Russian River resort area. Since it's also Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt's Family Reunion Weekend up there, a hefty crowd is expected to attend when Graylin Thornton will be the master of ceremonies.

The Northern California region will continue next weekend in Sacramento on Saturday, June 21 at the Bolt Bar. The Mr. San Francisco Leather Sir/boy contest will take place at the Powerhouse Bar on Saturday, July 5, and at my deadline there was no word on whether the East Bay (Alameda County) or the South Bay (Santa Clara County) would be staging competitions. The Northern California Leather Sir/boy contest will be on Saturday, August 3 at "Camp Russian River" at the Odd Fellows Hall. Winners there advance to the finals in Florida in October.



Juan Zazueta, left, is the 2003 International Mr. Deaf Leather, and Renata Millet is 2003 International Ms. Deaf Leather. They were chosen in Orlando, Florida last Friday, June 7, 200

Last weekend also, was the Southeast Leather Sir/boy regional competition in Atlanta, but not only was there no advance press releases issued but at my deadline, the winners had not yet been announced.

All across the nation and even in Eastern Canada (Toronto), leather sir and boy contests will be staged in the coming weeks to send candidates to the finals in Florida in October. Stay tuned for results of most of these competitions.

## Gay pride looms

All across the nation, in Canada and Europe, Gay Pride celebrations are either on the horizon or have already been celebrated. Last weekend, the San Jose Pride celebration took place with hefty crowds on hand for all the festivities.

In San Francisco, there are hundreds of pride-related events headed your way, including the Lesbian/Gay Film Festival, the Dyke March and dance parties galore.

The leather community will again be in a good position in the parade line-up. The Leather Contingent Committee met last Saturday at the LGBT Center and those attending chose Sal Hopkins the Grand Marshall of the SF Leather Contingent. A veteran of leather

women's groups, member of the Exiles of San Francisco and well liked and respected in the leather community, Ms. Hopkins was selected on a unanimous vote and watch for her at the parade.

Of all the pride activities taking place, the ones dearest to the leather/bdsm community are as follows:

On Friday night, June 27, the premiere leather event is always the Phoenix Uniform Club's Leather/Uniform Ball. This year, the 12th annual event starts at 2000 in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building (Van Ness Ave. at McAllister). Tickets are available now at Daddy's, Image Leathers, Mister S, Stompers, Worn Out West and at Leather Masters in San Jose. Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door if space allows. Gail Wilson and City Swing will perform and a bountiful buffet, champagne toast and cake will be available. For more information, click on [www.sfpheixuniformclub.com](http://www.sfpheixuniformclub.com).

The next morning, Saturday, June 28, the 5th annual Pride Brunch will take place in the Ramada Plaza Hotel (8th & Market) with an 1100 reception honoring this year's parade marshals and the glitterati of the San Francisco LGBT community. General Admission is \$75, host tickets are \$100, and tables for 10 are \$1,200

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Friday, June 13

Northeast Leather Sir/boy contest in New York City with Will Clark emcee'ing. Produced by Mike Marino and Connie Cox (the Mocha Goddess). This is one of the regional competitions. Winners will advance to the Leather Sir/boy finals in St. Petersburg in October.

### Saturday, June 14

Big, big doings at New York's 20th annual Leather Pride Night Auction at the Puck Building. Leather personalities galore from around the country. See: [www.leatherpridenight.org](http://www.leatherpridenight.org) for details.

Russian River Leather Sir/boy competition up in Guerneville. Winners advance to Northern California regional competition.

### Sunday, June 15

It's Father's Day and the SF Leather Daddies pre-

sent their annual beer/soda bust at the Eagle Tavern, 1500-1800 with cash drawings and Tom Rodgers auctioning off leather items.

### Wednesday, June 18

The one you've been waiting for: Mama's Leatherman contest at the Loading Dock. Doors open 1900, contest begins at 2000. Questions? Send an email to: [sfraytilton@aol.com](mailto:sfraytilton@aol.com).

### Weekend, June 20-21

In Sacramento, California, the Sacramento Leather Sir/boy competition at the Bolt at 2200. Winners advance to the Northern California Leather Sir/boy competition in August.

### Sunday, June 22

Folsom Street East in New York City at 13th Street & 9th Avenue. It's the 7th annual presentation. For info: [www.folsomstreeteast.org](http://www.folsomstreeteast.org)



## POLKSTRASSE

# The Pride of Polk St.

by Sweet Lips

It's Pride Celebration time again in the city, and I couldn't be gayer! Don't forget our great Pride Parade takes place on Sunday, June 29, and everyone agrees it is getting bigger and better each year. Bravo to the Pride Committee and all the countless volunteers who sweat and slave to bring it off!

You can feel the Pride all up and down Polk Street, where Pride happens every day. As the oldest bartender in San Francisco, I've seen it all, and trust me, I know!

Guess what? I'm back bartending at the popular Club Rendez-Vous, which has new summer hours: 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. seven days a week. And yes, Yours Truly will be on the plank from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, so come on in and share some local gossip with me! The other days of the week, you can stop in and hang out with the handsome Kenny Allison. Take advantage of the Early Bird specials (\$2 bottle or draft beer; \$3 well drinks) from 9 a.m. to Noon — a great bargain! Come in and see us!

Jim the "Mango Man" of the Cinch Saloon and Eddie Bellpepper will be celebrating their birthdays at 3 p.m.

## Cocktail Hour



Empress Pat Montclair, right, with David at the Sacramento Coronation.

on Saturday, June 21 at the Cinch Club. The Mango Man is celebrating the "Halfway to 90" mark, and Hola Bellpepper stopped counting years ago. It should be a blast! Dick Deemer is having a miserable time on Fire Island this summer. Seems they're having lousy weather.

But it'll change, Dick, so just be patient!

Thank you, Jim Welsh and Synergy, for all the rides home after I get off work. You're angels!

Finally, that beautiful Empress Pat Montclair (seen in the accompanying photograph with David at the Sacramento Coronation) is very ill, and needs some cheering up! I urge all her friends to send her get-well cards and chocolate bon bons. Keep up the spirits, Pat. We all love you! ▼

## Ggreg Taylor

◀ page 42

some of its major players, including Jerome and Diet Popstute. "I don't know about you," Taylor says, "but I've had more than 200 friends die."

The end of Product came because of Taylor's disgust and sense of betrayal when crystal meth made its way into the scene. He hated what it was doing to people. "Crystal was perfect for the AIDS epidemic because it gave you things that the AIDS epidemic took away. It made you feel powerful, sexy and sexual. It helped you dance into the ovens."

He abruptly abandoned Product, laying off all his employees and shutting it for good. He thought he'd left the club scene far behind.

"It's weird to get back into the whole club-empire thing again," Taylor says. "But the club scene is really boring right now, and what I do is really fun. It's big, and people get excited because it has legs. The stuff I do, I do because I want to have fun, too."

He also hopes to introduce people to the idea that opera tickets begin at \$24, and opera is anything but boring. "I don't think it's on a lot of people's map," he says.



'It's weird to get back into the whole club-empire thing again.'

"To a lot of people, it seems stodgy, and it's not, it's pretty cool."

Forgotten Opera takes place Saturday, June 14, 10 p.m.-4 a.m., at 44 Tehama (at 2nd St.) Advance

tickets from Body Body Wear (535 -Castro); \$20 in costume, \$25 not in costume, or \$30 at the door. ▼

www.ggreg.com

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

and can be purchased online by clicking on [www.positivere-source.org](http://www.positivere-source.org) or mail a check payable to PRC to Donna Sachet at 584 Castro St., Box 399, SECA 94114.

It should be a glittering month here and everywhere else where pride parades are being staged. I hope you can participate!

## Tribute to a heroine

I realize the press has reported on, and a memorial service was

held last Saturday for Jo Carol, but I admired this woman so much it would be remiss on my part to ignore her passing.

I met Jo Carol many years ago, during the halcyon days of the Trocadero Transfer, Megatone Records, Sylvester, the Two Tons of Fun and a myriad of other musical artists in our community. Jo Carol was a bouncy, vivacious and talented personality who just couldn't say no when she was asked to perform at a given benefit. She graced the stages with her vibrancy and robust voice in more bars and venues than can be

counted on fingers and toes. We always hoped she would get a "big break" but we were selfishly glad she was our own little "secret" of talent and caring. There will be a vivacious celebration of her life in town in a few weeks, but we mourn the loss of a woman who embraced our community with a non-judgmental attitude, a dynamic voice, a bubbling personality and an ambiance that endeared her to many. The community is poorer because of this loss, but Jo Carol will live in our minds and hearts as long as there is a "beat" in both places. ▼

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### PARTING GLANCES

**J-Church 4:45pm On Wednes 5/28**  
We stared; never said hello. You retrieved to organizer; I was struck by your intense eyes. Me: black cap, shorts, backpack, sunburnt. You: dark grey suit, palm pilot. Coffee? ☑ 72620

**Jeff Eagle Tavern 3/26**  
Looking 4 Jeff my one time partner in fighting crime. Enjoyed meeting you. Have thought of you often. You left lasting impression. B. ☑ 72621

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### SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**Hot Brazilian Looking 4 Lover**  
Want nice White man for friendship and more. I am 38, 142lbs. Like movies, soft drinks, professional, simple and romantic. I will make your dreams come true. "under 40 please!" ☑ 72596

**"Santa Rosa Native"**  
SWM, 42, 5'6", 170# seeks female. I enjoy drumming and talk radio, chess & tennis. Ex-navy, mobilehome owner. Redhead. ☑ 72613

**Muscular Italian Amer Seeks Asian**  
Works out 4 days/week, cultured, passionate, honest 44yrs wishes to date on regular basis, a smooth, muscled Asian, poss. longterm relationship. Pls be serious, honest, stable. No games/flakes. ☑ 72622

**I am 5'5", Asian, 205lbs, 34, Friendly**  
Seeking chubs-cubs, bears and chasers in the Bay Area for 1tr or friendship. You must be 250lbs, cute, handsome, nice, and chubby. Please do, and thanks. ☑ 72623

**Looking For A Man To Love!!**  
I am Italian 5'11", 180, HIV-, looking to share my life with that special man. You are 45-60 looking for the same thing. Serious only. Let's meet. ☑ 72624

**Useless, Old, Ugly, And Broke. But**  
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### SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Mellow, Mature Black Gentleman**  
Would like to meet a mature male with a husky build and moustache for good times. I'm 49, 5'9", 180, thinning hair, moustache, endowed. Downtown Oakland/SF areas. ☑ 72597

**Straight White Men!**  
For straight-looking gay guys wanted for fun sex to watch videos, i.e., 69, etc. If hung a plus. Call me. ☑ 72598

**Mature Masculine Submissive....**  
Seek dominant top for BDSM play experienced imaginative a plus. ☑ 72600

**Long Black Or Latin Uncut Top**  
Wanted by GWM 42, 61, 195#, 8"cut for 69, watching porn, getting sucked and do me dogie style. ☑ 72601

**Gay Male Nude Photo Models**  
Mature (60s) GWM photographer is seeking hot and hunky GWM, GWM, GLM, 25 to 60, to pose for nude, sexy and erotic photos. Let me put you in pictures! ☑ 72599

**"Desires"**  
Goodlooking man 50" large chest, large round 50g nipples to suck on and a 9 1/2 to 10" and 7 1/2" round dick to be fuck by you 18 to 30. ☑ 72602

**"Transgender"**  
I'm big and lovely. Large big tits and dick to suck. You any age 18 to 50 that can do what I say. ☑ 72603

**Smooth Slim Group Cock Wanted**  
In shape 6'1", 190lb. German Italian, male seeks a group of smooth, slender men or T.G.'s. Let's get together so that you can take turns fucking me. ☑ 72604

**Nice Bottom Oakland Boy**  
Nice boy looking for Oakland top's 5'10", 165 smooth, nice bubble butt call me. ☑ 72605

**Hung And Sexy Hispanic Guys**  
Needed. For fun sex, i.e., 69, to watch videos etc. If hung "8" "9" "10" great- if hung smaller o.k., but call me! ☑ 72606

**Cum To Santa Cruz/Monterey Co.**  
Cruise down for a weekend. Do your thing during day, let GWM, 50, orally service you at night. All races welcome. Stay over or not. Must be 18-28 and fit. ☑ 72614

**Old Fashioned**  
BM 59 healthy poz desires any race poz still into rimming and aroma N/S. ☑ 72615

**Batter Up!!**  
WM 38 5'10", 190lb. blond/blue muscular guy seeks field club dates for Giants games. Zagat-rated meal before or after is a plus- call anytime. ☑ 72626

**Big Chubby Men**  
Top Bi Bear, 43, 5'9", 220, beard, hairy, likes big chubby men 30+, 225lbs+, for lunchtime/daytime meetings. Am French p/a, Greek active, HIV-. Also like jo, being watched. ☑ 72627

**Need Experienced Butt Fucker**  
Goodlooking w/bi curious w/virgin hole seeks w/a smooth clean shaven to pound me w/your cock turn me totally queer make me your bitch whore serious only. ☑ 72628

**Down On Your Knees**  
Look me in the eyes while I stick my nice cut dick in your face. Dominant verbal guy 44 with lean build wants another tight lean bodied submissive guy 18 to 40's for fun role play. S 72629

**Slim Smooth Group Cock Wanted**  
This 6'1", 190lb. German, Italian, W/M is seeking a group of smooth, slender, hung guys to take turns fucking me. ☑ 72630

**Black/White XXX-Rated Fun**  
GWM 49 masculine goodlooking hung and very sexual seeks GBM for nude beaches, camping, outdoor sex and baths. Me fit, healthy, total top and shaved. We are both very uninhibited. ☑ 72631

**East Bay Gay Master**  
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**Handsome Muscular Asian**  
GAM, 38, 5'10", 175lb, masculine, HIV negative (u be too) New to SF. Looking for friendship or more with creative, intelligent, mature, passionate man. ☑ 72633

**GA Seeking GWM**  
38 years old GA looking for GM to service. I'm HIV- looking doesn't matter. You have to be you. ☑ 72634

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GWF 44 ISO GWF 35-50 who works in Law Enforcement or public Safety, for friendship, phone conversation, penpals. I live in So. Ca. Respond Code 3! ☑ 72616

### FETISHES

**Scat Pig Looking For Someone**  
Who makes me their 24/7 toilet (poiss is here not there). I'm into hard shit! If interested, call me... Make me your public and private toilet! ☑ 72607

**Pretty Boys Threesome Ravish**  
Me bi-HM, ss, ISO of pretty-boys (21-30 only) for threesome. Young very femme toilet asses. Pretty lips. 69-suck/fuck. Cigar-smokers. No drugs/alcohol. ☑ 72608

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**Filthy Street Bare Feet!**  
GWM, 35, trim, into natural barefoot lifestyles: always barefoot, everywhere wants similar guys with tough, filthy feet for barefoot outings on grimy streets. Will worship your filthy feet; mutual ok. ☑ 72618

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**I'm Seeking A Guy With Huge Nipples**  
I'm muscular, work-out 4 days/ week wanting to satisfy your huge protruding thick nipples. I guarantee my mouth will satisfy you. Pls be serious and have huge nipples. ☑ 72635

**Dirty-Minded Old Men**  
I'm a WM, 6', 165lbs, dk hr, 47yo. I enjoy servicing older/senior men who have raunchy-smelling crouches & butts. I'm also interested in exploring cock cheese, spit, scat, & other kinky scenes. Not into S&M, B&D, pain or gay scenes. ☑ 72636

**Sexy Showoff Into Fetishwear**  
Hot GWM with great body ISO into wearing sexy fetishwear. I have a great collection and wild imagination. Looking for hot guys into spandex, leather g-strings and more! ☑ 72637

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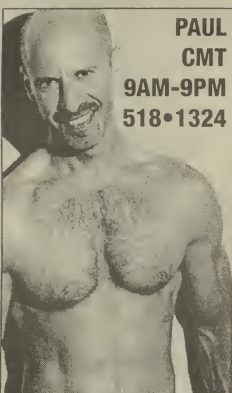


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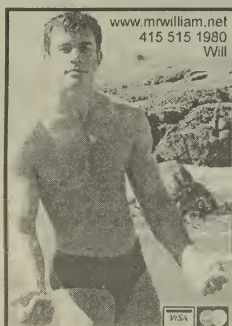
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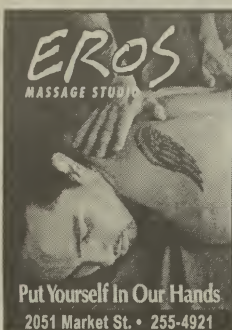
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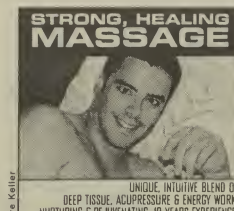
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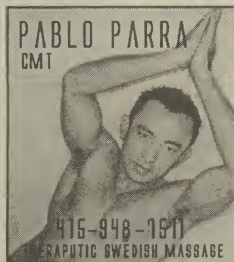
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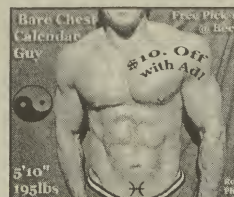
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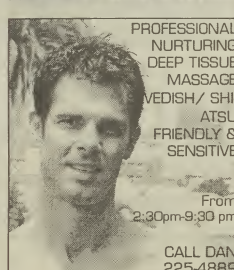
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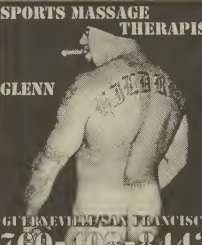
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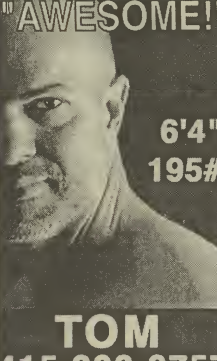


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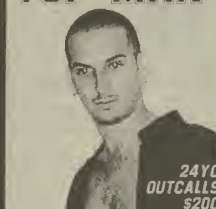
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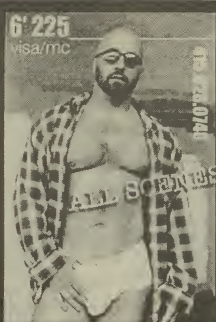
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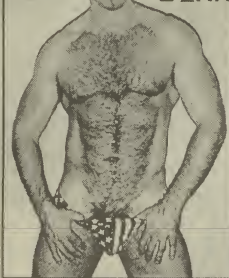
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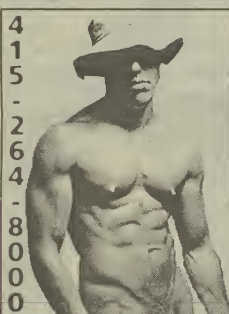


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No drugs. Partnerer Avail.

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E24

**COWBOY TOP**

6-180#, Rough muscled

30yrs. page 1 888 699 2325

E24

Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/

Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/\$80

E26

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E29

**CONSTRUCTION WORKER TOP**

6-1, 177#, vgl, 9 inch cut

Page 650-523-9133, and massage

E24

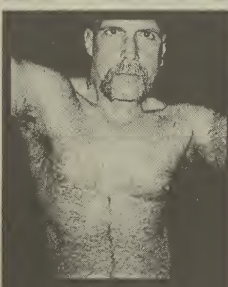
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GBM 6' 165# 9.5x6 415 425 3735

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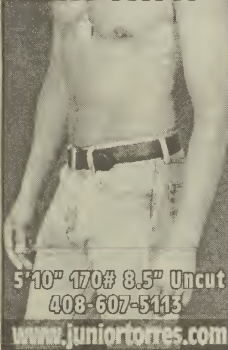
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Adult Video Performer  
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6'3" 240#  
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5'10" 170# 8.5" Uncut  
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6-1, 180#, muscular, 9inch cut,

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E24

## •HOT LATINO•

5'11", 180lbs. Muscular (x-fine)!!

In/Out 24/7. Pg. 804-2152

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**YOUNG,  
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6' 175 baseball biceps, 6 pak, model

looks 415-560-7456 pgr

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## •HOT 21YO WM•

6'2" 160LBS.

**REAL CUTE STUD**

E24

Frat boy Hunk

Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs &amp; Legs

Deep throat and young jock ass

5'9", 155#, 30"W, 8" 640-4045

E24

## •BEAUTIFUL BOYS•

**CHEAP SHOWER SHOWS**

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E24

**NEW CUTE SMOOTH BOY**

21, 5'11", 140, br/gr, 7.5cut.

Pager 415-210-9291 Out only

E24

**HORNY FRIENDLY DUDE**

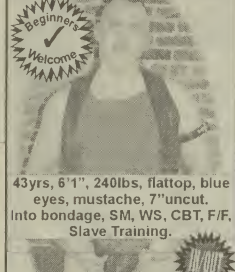
28, 5'6", 140# smooth, athletic

hot. Great tool, sweet ass.

Patrick 415-846-2824 Out SF

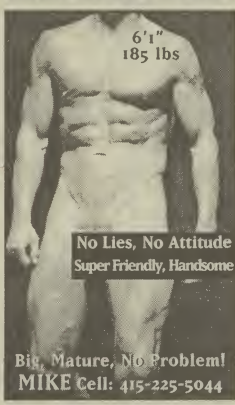
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43yrs, 6'1", 240lbs, flattop, blue  
eyes, mustache, 7"uncut.  
Into bondage, SM, WS, CBT, F/F,  
Slave Training.

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6'1"  
185 lbs

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Super Friendly, Handsome

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Both masculine and discreet  
watch or join us Mon-Fri eve.

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Gentle strength &amp; arousing edge

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E27

**SAN JOSE BOY**

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27, 5'11", 165#, blond hair

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E24

Hot blonde w/green eyes 5'7", 135#

**SEXY NEW BOYTOY**

Hot &amp; horny 22yo smooth/ bottom

In/Out calls- Jason 415-210-1526 New ph#

E24

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13TH @ 5:00PM. CLASSIFIED

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E26

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Will fulfill your fantasy! 207-6117

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6'2", 180 blk hair br eyes. Fun, play.  
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Came "Through" (Best Jobs).  
Handsome friendly educated top  
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Richie, 19, 5'6", 130#, blk/brn  
6.5x6 uncut, smooth swimmers body  
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Top and Bottom  
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23yo 5'7" 140 lbs ripped muscle  
body well educated versatile.  
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**SHVD, HEAD STUD**  
Well hung, big balls, 6ft, ez-goin  
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30, smooth & muscular for erotic  
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Hot masc top 32yr 5'11" 170 8"  
**RIDE MY PRIDE**  
Brn/blue into most scenes 24/7  
have buddy avail as 2nd 31, Italian  
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Simply amazing, sexy huge muscle  
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Or... so I've been told. I'm that  
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that you want me. Here's your  
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**Erik Dane**

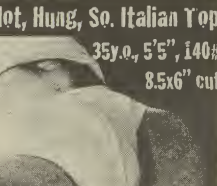
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9 1/2" Cut...Baseball Bat Thick  
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**Hot, Hung, So. Italian Top**

35yo, 5'5", 140#  
8.5x6" cut

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Dutch, hispanic, 22yo.  
Toned, smooth, versatile.  
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Tattooed, fun. No calls after 10pm.  
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6-180#, Rough muscled  
30yrs. page 1 888 699 2325

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Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/580  
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**CONSTRUCTION WORKER TOP**  
6-1, 177#, vgl, 9 inch cut  
Page 650-523-9133, and massage

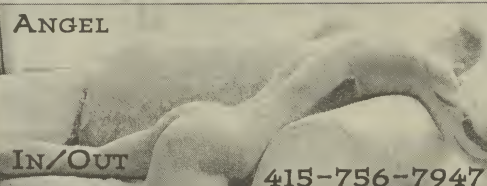
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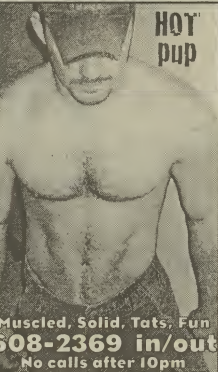


**Video Star Gauge**

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**STEEL WORKER**  
6-1, 180#, muscular, 9inch cut,  
29yrs, Top call Steve 415-595-3064

**\*HOT LATINO\***  
5'11", 180lbs. Muscular (x-fine)!!  
In/out 24/7. Pg. 804-2152

**YOUNG, HUNG, BLOND, BUFF**  
6' 175 baseball biceps, 6 pak, model  
looks 415-560-7456 pgr  
[www.changedesign.com/blndboy22](http://www.changedesign.com/blndboy22)

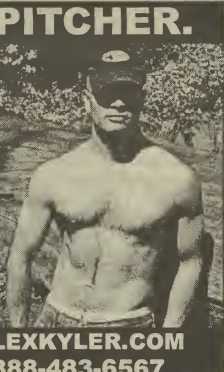
323-251-1151cel \$120/out only

**\*HOT 21YO WM\***  
**6'2" 160LBS.**  
**REAL CUTE STUD**

Frat boy Hunk  
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs  
Deep throat and young jock ass  
5'9", 155#, 30"W, 8" 640-4045

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27, 5'11", 165#, blond hair  
Pager/voice: 888-325-3005

Hot blonde w/green eyes 5'7", 135#  
**SEXY NEW BOYTOY**  
Hot & horny 22yo smooth/ bottom  
in/out calls- Jason 415-210-1526 New ph#

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LINE ADS JUNE 23 @ 12:00PM  
CALL FOR INFO AND RATES  
CALL 415-861-5019 OR EMAIL  
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Erotic bodyrub by handsome hung  
daddy \$50 out only Dan 255-7223



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TURKISH  
TOP

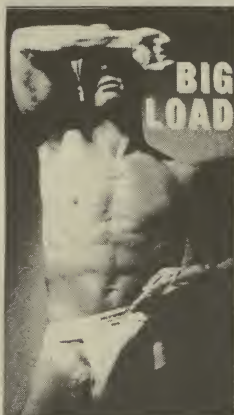
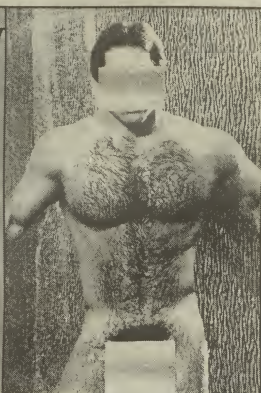
6'0 • 180# • 10x6 Uncut

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Safe and clean



HONEST 9" THICK CUT LARGE SMOOTH LOW HANGERS. MUSCULAR LEAN GYM BODY. BIG LOAD WHEREVER YOU NEED IT MOST. BLONDE. 33YRS, 5'11", 170#, XLNT PERFORMER. TOTALLY ACCURATE AD. TOP STUD. CALL IAN \$120 OUT-CALLS IN S.F. **415.210.0431**

**FOR MEN 50+**  
MASCULINE TOP MID 40s 6'3 185"  
ENJOY SCENES FROM SLOW, SENSUAL & PASSIONATE TO LEATHER & KINK.  
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SF BOYS OF LEATHER  
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MR. SF LEATHER 2004  
contest is Saturday, Sep. 27th, 2003  
Are you man/leather enough to hold the title? Plan now. Get involved!

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June 12...10pm. Wet Underwear

competition, etc. Who cares about

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Has he washed them yet? Will he be

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at the Wet Underwear competition?

1347 Folsom @ Dore Alley

## MR. NORTHERN CALIF.

SIR &amp; BOY CONTESTS

will be held in Guerneville, Calif.

AUGUST 1-3, 2003

For more info call (707) 869-0432

## TIRED OF BEING A

## BOTTOM?

Compete for the SF Leather Daddy

title in the contest taking place on

FRIDAY, JULY 25TH

at the Eagle Tavern. For more info,

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Assert your masculinity! Are you man

enough?

Mr. Leather telexes 877-654-7883

WM will BJ/rim/JO anyone 18-28/fit-

24/7 S Cruz Co 831-722-3739

## SF 2004 WET UNDER-

## WEAR CALENDAR CONTEST

Need: Men 30-45, handsome, built &amp;

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body), stats, contact info by 7/1/04 to

to: sfcalendar2004@hotmail.com

## TWEAKED OUT?

Check out the Stonewall Project's

website:

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You owe it to yourself, your friends,

your community, your loved ones.

For more info, call: 415-502-1999

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this coming weekend, June 20-22 at

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Be there for the "family photo" session.

## SUMMER MUSCLE SALE

Terry Photo At the Magazine. Hot

body heat sale June 12-till July 31.

All Terry VHS Tapes &amp; DVD-R New,

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Prints \$1 off. See hot physiques. Sale

ends 7/31/03. Bring this ad, maga-

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Minimum \$10 charge  
on Visa and MasterCard.

## CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

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Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

MAIL WITH  
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REPORTER  
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San Francisco, CA  
94103

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415.861.8144

Indicate  
Type Style  
Here ▼

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Thikdikdad seeks warm lean bot:  
Rimm/job 4 eager bottom/student:  
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**VERY HOT MAN**

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